

Acknowledgments

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I. Executive Summary

This report addresses the status of homeless youth in Arizona and is intended to meet the requirements outlined in Chapter 328 (Laws of 1999) Assistance Services Programs: Appropriation passed by the Arizona 44th Legislature in 1999. This legislation directed the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), Homeless Coordination Office to include information on the status of homeless youth in its annual report beginning January 1, 2001. Specific areas addressed in the report include:

- Estimates of the number of homeless youth.
- Available programs and services for homeless youth.
- Estimates of the number of youth who are served by existing programs for homeless youth.
- Demographics of homeless youth served.
- Estimates of the number of youth who sought assistance at shelter programs but could not be served, and the reasons they could not be served.

Background

Definition of Homeless Youth

For purposes of this report, homeless youth include the following:

- Runaway Youth: a person under the age of 18 years of age who is absent from their legal residence without the consent of his/her parent, legal guardian or custodian.
- Abandoned Youth: (commonly referred to in the literature as “throwaway” youth) Youth under 18 left to fend for themselves because their parents or guardians are unwilling to care for them.
- Street Youth: Long-term runaway or abandoned youth up through age 21 who have developed coping skills to maintain themselves on the street.
- Other Youth (through age 21): Youth who lack parental support and supervision and are left on their own. In many instances, parents are unable to provide parenting due to absence, mental illness, substance abuse problems and other problems. In other instances, a blended family leaves the child in an unsafe or at-risk position that they choose to leave.

The focus of this report is youth on their own who are no longer living with their families or are not currently served by existing child welfare or juvenile justice systems. Youth who are adjudicated dependent or delinquent and in state custody are not reflected in the description of homeless youth served in this report. It should be noted that some homeless youth move in and out of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems leaving gaps where they are considered “non-system youth.”

Services for Homeless Youth

Many of Arizona’s homeless youth programs strive to offer a continuum of services that begins with outreach and recruitment of youth into programs. Outreach and recruitment clearly are critical components since youth are reluctant to seek out services and are often afraid to trust an agency or program with their care. Additionally, these services are based on national models of best practices and are provided through direct provision or collaborative partnerships with other community programs and include such services as temporary and transitional shelter, case management, transportation, mental health services, and independent living.¹

Homeless Youth Intervention Program

Senate Bill 1180 also provided for the establishment of a Homeless Youth Intervention Program by the Arizona Department of Economic Security. The program was implemented by January 1, 2000 in two locations and administered through collaborative partnerships with community social agencies, family support programs and other community organizations, including faith-based organizations. These partnerships are to provide services to homeless youth who are referred, based on a screening and assessment by DES, and who are not currently served by the state child protective services or juvenile justice systems. This program provides 24-hour crisis services, family reunification, job training and employment assistance, assistance in obtaining shelter, transitional and independent living programs, character education and additional services necessary to meet the needs for youth to achieve self-sufficiency. An appropriation of \$400,000 for each of the fiscal years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 was also included to fund the program.

DES implemented the Homeless Youth Intervention Program in January 2000 through a contract with Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development, which is the lead agency for a collaborative service network made up of three major agencies serving runaway and homeless youth in the state: Tumbleweed, Open-Inn and Our Town. These agencies administer the program in Maricopa, Pima and Yavapai Counties.

¹ Bass, Deborah, *Helping Vulnerable Youths Runaway and Homeless Adolescents in the United States*, NASW Press. 1992.

Key Findings

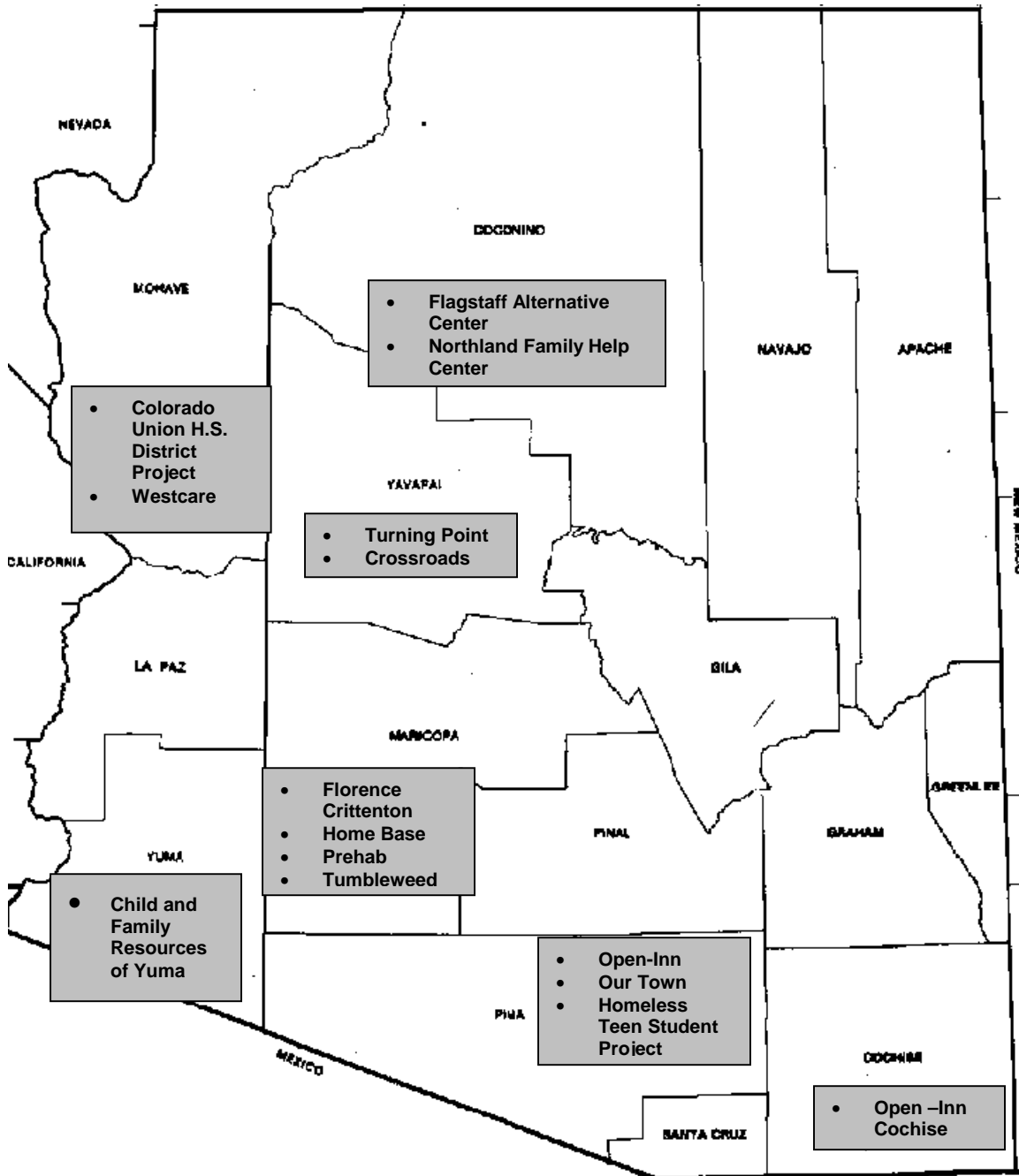
Estimates Of Homeless Youth

Complete and consistent data on homeless youth is difficult to obtain due to the diverse characteristics of this population. While no single data source in Arizona provides a comprehensive estimate of the number of homeless youth, data collected by several state agencies were used to measure the extent of the problem and identify areas of need. For example:

- 5,748 runaway reports for youth under 18 were received by Arizona law enforcement agencies in 1999.
- Females make up 60 percent of the runaway reports compared to males 40 percent.
- 182 homeless adults ages 18-21 (representing 7% of all homeless adults in shelters) were in Arizona homeless shelters at a given point in time in January 2000.
- 1,747 youth were referred to the 15 county juvenile courts in Arizona for runaway offenses in 1999.
- 1,838 youth were estimated to be homeless at a given point in time in 2000 by the three homeless Continuum of Care plans in Arizona.
- 367 calls were received by the National Runaway Switchboard from youth in Arizona in 1999.

Available Programs and Services for Homeless Youth

Figure 1. Arizona Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs by County (Includes agencies participating in Survey for FY 2000).



- Arizona has a total of 138 emergency beds in 12 emergency shelter facilities for homeless youth under 18. The majority of these beds (75% or 105 beds), however, are reserved for youth in the child welfare or juvenile corrections systems. Only about 33 beds (25%) are flexible community beds and can serve “non-system” youth.
- According to information provided by agencies serving homeless youth, drop-in centers, emergency shelters and transitional living programs are only available in seven of Arizona’s 15 counties, leaving youth in the remaining eight counties without critical resources.
- Agencies operate eight different transitional living programs including group residences, supervised apartments and scattered site apartments with 84 flexible community beds for homeless youth 14-21 representing 85 percent of the 99 total transitional beds.

Estimates Of Homeless Youth Who Are Served By Existing Programs

- According to the Homeless Youth Survey, 3,253 youth under 18 were served by 22 programs within seven Arizona counties in FY 2000.
- Based on the agency survey, 2,169 youth 18-21 were served by homeless youth programs in FY 2000. The majority of these youth were served in Maricopa (85%) and Pima (13%) counties because of the availability of special programs such as Tumbleweed, Home Base and Open-Inn.

Demographics Of Homeless Youth Served

The profile of runaway and homeless youth served provides information to guide service planning and development with reference to gender, ethnicity, referral sources, length of stay, last living situation and length of homelessness prior to accessing services. For example, youth served by the homeless youth programs had the following characteristics:

- Youth under 18 were more likely to be female (54%) than male (46%).
- Youth 18-21 were more likely to be male (55%) than female (45%).
- The ethnicity of youth under 18 served by programs was reported as White--51 percent, Hispanic—22 percent, American Indian—14 percent, Black—7 percent, Other—4 percent and Asian—1 percent.
- Most youth (63%) under 18 were reunited with their parents after discharge from a homeless youth program.

- Providers estimate that 52 percent of the youth served in homeless youth programs have had previous runaway episodes.
- 59 percent of youth under 18 served were attending school regularly when they entered runaway or homeless youth programs.

The issues facing vulnerable youths have been well documented both by the FY 2000 Homeless Youth Survey and other studies cited in this report. Survey data indicates that for youth under 18 school problems, parental abuse, family financial problems, parental alcoholism and drug abuse were most common. For youth 18-21 the most common issues were lack of financial support, drug abuse, alcoholism, absence of father and economic problems. Many youth have multiple problems that led to their homelessness as these issues are not mutually exclusive.

Estimates Of Homeless Youth Who Sought Assistance At Shelter Programs But Could Not Be Served And The Reasons They Could Not Be Served

- An additional 1,094 youth under 18 were referred to programs but could not be served. The majority (56% or 613) of these youth could not be served due to lack of capacity (space) and 44 percent (or 481) due to serious behavior problems, mental illness or problems that required more intensive care. The majority of youth under 18 who could not be served were in Maricopa County (58%), followed by 22 percent in Pima County.
- An additional 916 youth (18-21) were referred to programs but could not be served. Approximately one third (36% or 328) of the youth could not be served due to lack of capacity (space) and 64 percent (or 588) due to serious behavior problems, mental illness or problems that required more intensive care. The majority (50%) of youth 18-21 who could not be served were in Pima County followed by Maricopa (46%) and Coconino (4%).

Summary

Agencies serving homeless youth are trying a variety of innovative prevention intervention and treatment approaches to help youth and their families overcome their problems. The programs are designed to provide services that are youth-friendly and accessible with the goal of getting the youth off the street and into a safe, supportive environment as soon as possible. Once youth run away, they are likely to suffer from poor nutrition, respiratory diseases, physical and sexual victimization and many other problems. Homeless youth also feel the negative effects caused by the shortage of affordable housing, substance abuse programs, mental health treatment, transportation as well as overloaded child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Access to these services can prevent homelessness, provide valuable treatment and enhance their success.

Although Arizona's runaway and homeless youth face many serious issues and problems, the agencies serving this population have demonstrated an ability to reach youth and make a positive impact on these vulnerable youth and, in most cases, reunite them with their families. Arizona's agencies serving homeless youth represent an impressive group of programs that have benefited from the commitment of knowledgeable and dedicated leaders and staff who have continued to provide leadership and advocacy in the shaping of state policy in this area.

II. Background

The Problem of Homeless Youth

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that between 500,000 and 1.5 million children and youth in the United States run away from home each year.² Of these youth, 21 percent are classified as homeless and 79 percent runaways.³ Approximately 3 percent of the homeless youth are “abandoned”, youth who have been told to leave the house or prevented from returning home. The National Runaway Switchboard reports that the majority of callers (86%) are between 14-17 years of age, female (74%) with 26 percent male. Of the callers to the national hotline, 35 percent have runaway before, 61 percent have been on the run for 7 days or less and 40 percent will cross state lines.⁴ Many youth are leaving homes affected by abuse, neglect, substance abuse, mental illness or other family problems. According to the National Runaway Switchboard, 40 percent of the callers report problems with family dynamics and 15 percent report peer and social relationship issues at the time they ran away.

More than half (53%) of runaway and homeless youth in a National Association of Social Workers survey reported education or school problems, 45 percent had an absent father and 41 percent came from families with long-term economic problems and 38 percent had at least one foster care placement.⁵

The results of a study released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Youth Services Bureau, *Youth with Runaway, Throwaway, and Homeless Experiences: Prevalence, Drug Use and Other At-Risk Behaviors* suggests that approximately half of *runaways* surveyed in shelters could be categorized as *throwaways*.⁶ The study found that disruptive family conditions may be the principal reasons that runaway, abandoned and homeless youth leave home. Difficult conditions in the homes of youth include:

- familial substance abuse,
- poverty,
- placement of youth in out-of-home or institutional settings,
- attempted suicide; and
- abandoned experiences.

² Statement on the Reauthorization of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act before the Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families, U.S. House of Representatives by Patricia Montoya, Commissioner, Administration on Children Youth and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 25, 1999.

³ GAO Report on Homelessness, December 1989 (HRD9045)

⁴ National Runaway Switchboard, (www.nrscrisisline.org) Statistics for FY 1998.

⁵ Bass, D., National Association of Social Workers, *Helping Vulnerable Youths-Runaway and Homeless Adolescents in the United States*, 1992.

⁶ Research Triangle Institute, *Youth With Runaway, Throwaway, and Homeless Experiences, Prevalence, Drug Use, and Other At-Risk Behaviors*, U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Family and Youth Services Bureau, October 1995.

Despite the many risk factors, there are no “typical” runaway or homeless youth. They come from a variety of backgrounds and environments. There are also similarities in the challenges faced by runaway and homeless youth such as:

Abuse- A recent study for the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services found that 46 percent of runaway and homeless youth had been physically abused and 17 percent had been forced into unwanted sexual activity by a family or household member.⁷

Health problems- Homeless youth often suffer from poor hygiene, lack of sleep, high exposure to violence (as both victims and witnesses) and difficult weather conditions- which can result in a variety of medical problems. Various studies have found that injuries, malnutrition and skin infections (such as lice and scabies) are serious health problems for homeless youth.⁸

Psychological disorders- The high level of psychological disorders among homeless youth is not surprising given the reasons they left home, the conditions under which they live and their lack of familial support and other social bonds. In one study, the rates of major depression, conduct disorder and post-traumatic stress syndrome were found to be three times higher among runaway youth as among youth in the general population.⁹

HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases- Runaway and homeless youth are more likely to engage in survival sex, have multiple partners and unprotected sex and are at increased risk for HIV infection. Several studies of runaway and homeless youth have found high HIV prevalence rates, ranging from 5.3 percent in New York City, 11.5 percent in Hollywood, CA and 12.9 percent in Houston, Texas.¹⁰

School difficulties- Homeless youth encounter many difficulties attending school that include legal guardianship requirements, residency requirements, lack of proper records and inadequate or nonexistent transportation. As a result, many of these young people struggle in obtaining an education and supporting themselves.¹¹ In a 1989 GAO report, youth living on the streets were reported as the least likely to have been attending school when they arrived at a shelter program.¹²

⁷ Westat, Inc. 1997. National Evaluation of Runaway and Homeless Youth. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children Youth and Families.

⁸ Farrow JA, Deisher RW, Brown R., Kulig JW, Kipke MD, 1992 Health and mental health needs of homeless and runaway youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 13:717-726.

⁹ Robertson, MJ 1989. Homeless Youth in Hollywood: Patterns of Alcohol Use. Bethesda, MD: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Report No. C51.

¹⁰ Pfeifer RW, Oliver J. 1997. A study of HIV seroprevalence in a group of homeless youth in Hollywood, California. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 20(5): 339-342.

¹¹ National Coalition for the Homeless, 1997. Fact Sheet, Number 13. Homeless Youth, Washington DC. Author.

¹² United States General Accounting Office, 1989. Homelessness: Homeless and Runaway Youth Receiving Services at Federally Funded Shelters, Washington DC: Author.

Adult homelessness- A recent study on homelessness for the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) confirmed that formerly and currently homeless adults are more likely to have endured childhood abuse, used drugs or alcohol at an early age, or spent time in juvenile detention than other adults who never were homeless but are poor enough to use the same services, such as soup kitchens or drop-in centers. Experiences away from one's childhood family also may be risk factors for adult homelessness.¹³

Resiliency and protective factors that may help to prevent the conditions and risk factors that contribute to problems experienced by runaway and homeless youth include¹⁴:

- Four or fewer children, spaced more than two years apart
- Much attention paid to infant during first year
- Positive parent-child relationship in early childhood
- Additional caregivers besides mother
- Care by siblings and grandparents
- Steady employment of mother outside of household
- Availability of kin and neighbors for emotional support
- Structure and rules in household
- Shared values
- Close peer friends
- Availability of counsel by teachers and/or ministers
- Access to special services (health, education and social services)

Services for Homeless Youth

Some of Arizona's larger programs serving homeless youth have received federal funding under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and have developed service delivery models based on national standards for effectiveness. These standards are based on a philosophy of a youth development approach designed to strengthen connections between youth and the community. A comprehensive youth development approach should contain the following components as outlined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Youth and Family Services Bureau¹⁵:

¹³ Burt, Martha, Aron, L. et al, The Urban Institute, Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve- Findings of the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients," 1999.

¹⁴ Jarvis, S. U. (1990). Drug use among runaway and homeless youths: A southeastern perspective. Athens, GA: Southeastern Network of Youth and Family Services.

¹⁵ Bass, Deborah, Helping Vulnerable Youths Runaway and Homeless Adolescents in the United States, NASW Press. 1992.

- Prevention activities that help youth understand how certain behaviors can negatively affect their future.
- Effective protective systems that monitor young people's safety and ensure swift intervention when they are at risk of abuse and neglect.
- Educational systems that allow for the different learning styles of young people and provide mentoring for those who experience special challenges.
- Adult support and guidance through recreational and other activities in which youth learn and develop their social skills.
- Opportunities for youth to contribute to the greater community while building skills and competencies.
- Early intervention with youth who engage in acting-out behaviors which are symptomatic of problems that are beyond their capacity to address.
- Community-wide support for youth and families through resources designed to support young people, strengthen families and rebuild neighborhoods.

A nationally recognized model for service delivery was developed based on a 1991 NASW (National Association of Social Workers) survey of programs serving runaway and homeless youth in 54 states and territories. Information from the survey responses was reviewed and combined with input from a panel of experts to develop identified key components of a *best practice* approach to serving homeless youth.¹⁶ The following components serve as a guide for development of many of Arizona's community-based programs and services for homeless youth:

- Identification of education, health, and social service systems and development of linkages for services,
- Development and implementation of outreach activities with target populations,
- Development and implementation of public awareness activities,
- Empowerment of youths and families in the development, implementation and evaluation of services,

¹⁶ Bass, Deborah, *Helping Vulnerable Youths Runaway and Homeless Adolescents in the United States*, NASW Press. 1992.

- Development and implementation of initial and ongoing assessment tools and mechanisms to identify clients' needs, problems, resources, and progress,
- Development of outcome measures and follow-up of service plan to completion or assessment of clients' achievement at three, six and 12-month intervals,
- Advocating for quality, client-centered policies, programs, and services for youth and families; and
- Development and implementation of coordinated program-wide and ongoing staff training programs.

Many of Arizona's homeless youth programs strive to offer a continuum of services that begin with outreach to recruit youth. This clearly is one of the most critical components of programs as youth are reluctant to seek out services and are often afraid to trust an agency or program with their care. These services are based on national models of best practices and provided through direct provision of services or through collaborative partnerships with other community programs and include¹⁷:

- Outreach
- Screening/Intake
- Temporary Shelter
- Case Management
- Informational and Referral
- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Transportation
- Health Care
- Transitional Living Beyond Shelter
- Aftercare
- Drug Abuse Program
- Program for Alcoholics
- Mental Health Services
- Treatment for Suicidal Behavior
- Independent Living Planning
- Educational Program
- Advocacy
- AIDS/HIV Treatment
- Gay/Lesbian Youth Special Services
- Recreation/Leisure Time Activities
- Transitional Living for Young Single Parents

¹⁷ Bass, Deborah, *Helping Vulnerable Youths Runaway and Homeless Adolescents in the United States*, NASW Press. 1992.

Homeless Youth Intervention Program

Senate Bill 1180 also provided for the establishment of a Homeless Youth Intervention Program by the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) by January 1, 2000. This program was to be implemented in two locations in the state through collaborative partnerships with community social agencies, family support programs and other community organizations, such as faith-based organizations. The partnerships are to provide services to homeless youth under 18 who are referred based on a screening and assessment by DES and are not currently served by the state child protective services or juvenile justice systems. The focus of the program is to provide 24-hour-crisis services, family reunification, job training and employment assistance, assistance in obtaining shelter, transitional and independent living services, character education and any additional services that the department determines are necessary to meet the needs for youth to achieve self-sufficiency. An appropriation of \$400,000 for each of the fiscal years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 was also included to fund the program. DES implemented the Homeless Youth Intervention Program in January 2000 through a contract with Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development, which represents the lead agency for a collaborative service network made up of three agencies serving homeless youth in the state: Tumbleweed, Open-Inn and Our Town provide services in Maricopa, Pima and Yavapai counties.

Bryan

The Street Outreach Program came into contact with "Bryan" a 15 year-old homeless youth from California. Bryan had come from California to live with his aunt while his mother finished treatment in a substance abuse program. Bryan had run away from a shelter after frequent runs from his aunt's home.

Bryan's mother had been addicted to various substances since Bryan was an infant and Bryan never knew his mother as a healthy, functioning adult and parent. The stress of the move from California coupled with the new, scary prospect of a mother who was a dynamically changed individual from the one he grew up knowing led Bryan to run again and again from his family and shelters.

Bryan also had a history of sexual abuse in his past at the hands of a trusted family friend. These issues set the stage for Bryan's continued running. When Outreach staff first encountered him it was at the request of his mother who was desperate to find a safe place for Bryan to stay while she finished her treatment program and earned the money needed to get into stable housing.

Bryan entered the shelter and began an extended 5-day reunification with his mother. Bryan wanted to know that he would have a home and that his mother would not return to the addictions that had wrecked their lives in the past. His mother wanted to know that Bryan was safe while she finished up the treatment. Bryan was allowed to remain at the shelter while his mom continued to explore housing options. Bryan's mother is committed to remaining sober and is working overtime to secure the funds needed to get into their new home. With assistance from the Homeless Youth Intervention Project funds it's hoped that this will be expedited and Bryan and his mother will be in their new home by mid-October. Outreach staff will continue to support Bryan and his mother during this time of transition.

III. Methodology

Four data collection methods were utilized to collect information on the needs and resources available for runaway and homeless youth in Arizona and include:

- A **survey** that was administered to 13 agencies representing 24 programs serving runaway and homeless youth between July and September 2000. The response to the provider survey was excellent (85%), with 11 agencies and 22 programs responding. A copy of the survey instrument is included in Appendix A.
- **Site visits** that were made to five programs in both rural and metropolitan areas to gain an in-depth understanding of how the programs operate and successes and barriers encountered in serving this population. These programs include Tumbleweed Youth Services, Our Town Family Center, Home Base Youth Services, Open-Inn Turning Point and Open-Inn Flagstaff Alternative Center.
- **Focus groups** that were also conducted with 22 youth in conjunction with four of the site visits to gather specific information on the youth perspective on needs and services.
- **Estimates** of runaway and homeless youth that were obtained from the Arizona Department of Public Safety Uniform Crime Report, Arizona Supreme Court Juvenile Services Division, Department of Education, Arizona Department of Economic Security's Homeless Youth Intervention Program and Homeless Coordination Office and the National Runaway Switchboard.

Homeless Youth Work Group

Community and professional input was invaluable in the design and implementation of this important data collection effort. In order to insure that accurate and complete information was obtained, the Homeless Youth Work Group, established by the Children's Action Alliance in the fall of 1998 to study the issues affecting Arizona's homeless youth provided guidance and oversight, along with DES for the data collection efforts for the report. Work group members were familiar with the issues and background of the legislation as they worked on the development and passage of the bill. The group also assisted with the identification of agencies and programs providing services to homeless youth, reviewed and made suggestions to the survey, hosted site visits and focus groups in their agencies and reviewed preliminary data and findings for the report.

Limitations

Estimates of the number of homeless youth in Arizona were compiled from different agencies because no single source exists for this information. As a result, statistics may represent some duplication and also include some youth who are beyond the definition of youth who are the focus of this report. For example, while critically important for its accuracy, the number of runaway reports provided by the Arizona Department of Public Safety- Uniform Crime Report also includes youth under 18 being served by the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Providers serving runaway and homeless youth in Arizona vary in terms of size, capacity, funding sources and services offered. The programs also differ in the type of information collected about the youth served. Some providers receiving federal funds participate in a national uniform data collection system administered by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System -RHYMIS) and have more detailed data available. Other programs, without a uniform data collection system, experienced more difficulty in completion of some aspects of the provider survey. In order to address these limitations, providers were asked to provide estimates where actual figures were not available.

The 90-day time frame (July 1- September 30, 2000) established by DES for the project because of funding restrictions, was overly optimistic given the nature of the provider survey that had to be administered.

A list of agencies serving runaway and homeless youth for the survey was compiled using information from the DES Homeless Coordination Office, Children's Action Alliance, National Runaway Switchboard and Information and Referral Directories.¹⁸ Some agencies and programs may have been missed due to the time constraints and lack of centralized information available, but every effort was made to include all known agencies specializing in serving this population given the limitations of the project. Providers were given two weeks to respond and additional time was required to meet the needs of individual agencies. Corrections had to be made after the surveys were received which further extended the data collection period, resulting in limited time available to analyze results and outline findings in the report. If at all possible, future efforts should provide for 180 days.

¹⁸ National Directory of Children, Youth and Family Services 2000-2001.

Focus groups

Perceptions of the services offered by runaway and homeless youth programs were obtained through four focus groups representing 22 youth in four programs in three regions of the state (Tucson, Prescott, and Phoenix). These youth ranged in age from 13-21 and came from diverse backgrounds. Key issues and recommendations identified in the focus groups are presented in a section as qualitative information as these responses cannot be quantified due to the manner in which they were collected. The youth participating in the focus groups consisted of youth receiving services on the given day of the site visit and were willing to participate. Each youth was given a \$10 reimbursement for expenses.

IV. Findings

Estimates of the Number of Homeless Youth

Data on the number of homeless youth in Arizona is not available from a single source but must be compiled from multiple sources. Information indicating the magnitude of the problem of homeless youth was obtained from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Arizona Supreme Court Juvenile Services Division, Arizona Department of Economic Security and Arizona Department of Education. Each of these estimates presents a specific perspective.

Runaway offenses

- In 1999, there were 5,748 runaway offenses by juveniles (youth under 18) reported to law enforcement agencies in Arizona. These offenses serve as an indicator of the number of youth who may be in trouble or need services. Many of these youth may be able to be reunited with their families or may be served by the child welfare, mental health or juvenile justice systems.

Table 1 presents the number of runaway reports made in each county. Females were more often reported as runaways (60%) compared to males (40%). When runaway reports of youth are compared to the population projections, several discrepancies become apparent which may be indications of underreporting. While 59 percent of the youth live in Maricopa County, this jurisdiction accounts for only 29 percent of the runaway reports. In comparison, Pima County accounts for 49 percent of the runaway reports for 17 percent of the child population. Yuma County is also overrepresented in runaway reports (6%) when compared to population (3%). Further study of this data, along with the policies used by law enforcement agencies to accept and compile statistics would provide valuable information on the estimates of runaway youth in need of services.

Table 1. Runaway Reports to Law Enforcement and County Population						
Runaway Reports to Law Enforcement 1999 - Youth 0-18					County Population Youth 0-19	
County	Males	Females	Total	% of Total	County Population 0-19	Percent of State
Apache	19	1	20	<1%	30,539	2.1%
Cochise	173	180	353	6%	36,203	2.5%
Coconino	43	100	143	2%	38,963	2.7%
Gila*	13	16	29	<1%	14,437	1.0%
Graham	10	19	29	<1%	12,058	.08%
Greenlee	0	1	1	<1%	3,533	.02%
La Paz	1	1	2	<1%	4,985	.03%
Maricopa	728	926	1,654	29%	849,754	58.9%
Mohave	36	64	100	2%	36,899	2.5%
Navajo	34	41	75	1%	34,694	2.4%

Table 1. Runaway Reports to Law Enforcement and County Population						
Runaway Reports to Law Enforcement 1999 - Youth 0-18					County Population Youth 0-19	
County	Males	Females	Total	% of Total	County Population 0-19	Percent of State
Pima	1,059	1,760	2,819	49%	233,177	17.0%
Pinal	96	140	236	4%	48,368	3.3%
Santa Cruz	4	12	16	<1%	14,338	1.0%
Yavapai	77	119	196	3%	35,959	2.5%
Yuma**	45	180	225	6%	46,869	3.2%
Statewide Total	2,308	3,440	5,748	100%	1,440,776	99.2%

Source: Arizona Department of Public Safety, Uniform Crime Report, July 2000.

*Does not include data from Gila County Sheriff's Office, ** Data annualized based on 4 months. Totals may exceed 100 percent due to rounding. Population Projections for 2000 by Age, Arizona Department of Economic Security. Age Groupings based on Census. Percentages do not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Youth Referred to the Juvenile Courts for Runaway Offenses

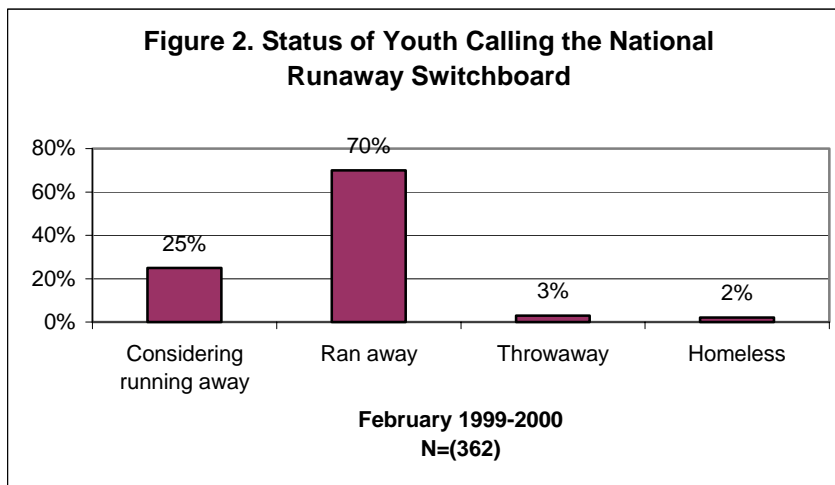
Table 2 illustrates youth referred to the 15 County Juvenile Courts in Arizona for runaway offenses. Youths appear in this table if runaway is the only offense committed during the year. For example, if a juvenile is referred for runaway in January and referred again for shoplifting in April, he is not counted in this table. Or if a juvenile is referred for runaway and shoplifting on the same referral, the juvenile is not counted on this table. The report reflects an unduplicated count of juveniles within any county.

Table 2. Runaway Reports to Juvenile Courts FY 1999		
County	Total	Percent of Total
Apache	6	<1%
Cochise	87	5%
Coconino	53	3%
Gila	15	<1%
Graham	2	<1%
Greenlee	2	<1%
La Paz	2	<1%
Maricopa	432	25%
Mohave	84	5%
Navajo	47	3%
Pima	821	47%
Pinal	65	4%
Santa Cruz	6	<1%
Yavapai	51	3%
Yuma	74	4%
Statewide Total	1,747	100%

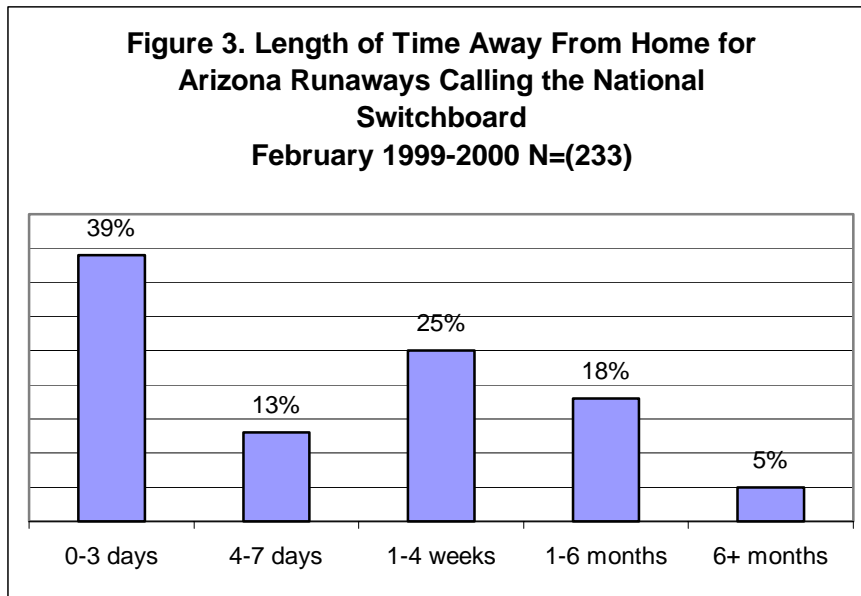
Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, Juvenile Justice Services Division, September 2000.

National Runaway Switchboard Statistics

The National Runaway Switchboard provides assistance to callers who have runaway or individuals trying to assist youth. During the past year (2/15/99-2/14/2000), the switchboard received 367 calls from youth in Arizona. The majority (74%) of the callers were female compared to 26 percent male. The age of the callers ranged from 11-18 with the largest numbers of callers (42%) age 16, followed by 22 percent age 17, 14 percent age 15, 12 percent age 14 and other ages representing the remaining 10 percent. Figure 2 presents the status of the youth at the time they called the National Runaway Switchboard with the majority (75%) of callers having left home.



Approximately 4 of 10 (39%) youth callers who had run away were repeat runaways with 17 percent of these repeaters having run away five times or more. Similarly, 4 of 10 youth also crossed state lines. Figure 3 illustrates the length of time away from home for Arizona youth calling the National Switchboard with more than half (52%) of the youth calling for help within their first week after leaving home.



Status Report- Education for Homeless Children and Youth in Arizona

The Arizona Department of Education also conducts periodic statewide surveys of school districts, social service agencies, health agencies and law enforcement agencies to compile an estimate of all homeless children (with their families and also youth on their own) in the state in order to comply with the requirements under the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act.¹⁹ The Department of Education identified 11,914 homeless children, of which 70 percent were attending school and another 30 percent who were not in school.

Homeless children were defined as “a *homeless individual is one who 1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate residence or 2) has a primary night-time residence in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (Section 103 (a)(1)(2) of the Act).*” Child and Youth are defined as “persons who, if they were children of residents of the State, would be entitled to a free public education.”

¹⁹ Arizona Department of Education, 1993. Status Report-Education for Homeless Children and Youth Under the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act.

Youth on their own were not identified as a specific group in the report. Barriers identified in the report that prevent children from attending school included: lack of shelter, food and clothing. Almost half (39%) of the homeless children identified were living on streets, campgrounds or in cars and were not in shelters or other forms of temporary housing. The largest groups of homeless children were identified in the Tucson area (47%), followed by Phoenix (45%), Yuma (4%), Sierra Vista (3%) and Northern Arizona (1%).

Year 2000 Gaps/Needs Analysis

Few housing and other programs for homeless youth are available nationwide. According to a national study on homelessness by the Urban Institute in August 1999, no more than 10 percent of programs identify a special focus on youth, regardless of program type and only 11 percent of housing programs were designed to assist youth.²⁰

The Year 2000 Continuum of Care Analysis prepared by Maricopa Association of Governments, Pima County and the Arizona Department of Commerce reported 1,838 homeless youth²¹ in Arizona at a given point in time.²² The Maricopa County section of the report also noted that only 81 of 452 or 18 percent of homeless youth (14-21) can be served with the existing Transitional Living Services in Maricopa County in 2 programs. The estimated unmet need for Transitional Living services is for 371 youth.

DES Annual Homeless Shelter Survey

The Department of Economic Security, Homeless Coordination Office, conducts a semi-annual survey of homeless shelters resulting in a point-in-time estimate of homeless individuals in Arizona. The most recent survey, conducted in January 2000, provided the following estimates for youth.

- Arizona homeless shelters reported 182 youth 18-21 in shelter programs at the given point in time.
- During the same point in time 66 youth under 18 were reported in youth shelter programs. On the same day, 9 youth were turned away.²³

²⁰ Urban Institute, Homelessness Programs and the People they Serve: Findings of the National Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients, August 1999.

²¹ Each Continuum of Care group came up with its own estimate. Most groups used the HUD definition of homelessness – living in places not meant for human habitation, in transitional housing or emergency shelter or being evicted within one week from a private dwelling and no subsequent residence has been identified. (youth on their own, not with their parents.)

²² Year 2000 Continuum of Care Analysis by Maricopa Association of Governments, Pima County and Arizona Department of Commerce, (A report required by HUD to be included in applications for Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act Funds).

²³ Arizona Department of Economic Security, Homeless Coordination Office, 2000.

Homeless Youth Intervention Program

The Arizona Department of Economic Security implemented the Homeless Youth Intervention Program in January 2000 as part of SB 1180 (Laws of 1999) to provide comprehensive services to runaway and homeless youth under 18 who were not served by child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Preliminary data for the program indicates that in the first six months 67 youth were referred through DES Child Protective Services and 59 (88%) were served. The majority of the youth who were not served were actually being served by CPS or the juvenile justice system and the remaining 2 were either under 14 or over 18 years of age and did not qualify for the program.

A profile of the youth served indicates that the three pilot counties each served approximately the same number of youth: Maricopa (36%), Pima (34%) and Yavapai (31%). Females were more likely to be served by the program (63%) compared to males (37%).

The majority of the youth served (88%) were older teens between 16-18 years of age and 12 percent 14-15 years of age. Youth served were predominantly White (68%), Hispanic (17%), Native American (8%) and African American (7%).

A continuum of services was provided to the youth served that included:

- Case Management (100%)
- Emergency Supplies (24%)
- Family Support and Stabilization (17%)
- Educational Assistance (17%)
- Housing Search and Relocation (15%)
- Independent Living Skills Training (19%)
- Employment Assistance (14%)
- Transportation (12%)
- Character Education (12%)
- Transitional Living Placements (10%)
- Shelter (5%)
- Counseling (5%)
- Mentoring (3%)
- Parent Training (3%)
- Substance Abuse Treatment (2%)

A program evaluation currently being conducted by the Arizona Auditor General will provide additional information on the effectiveness and impact of the program.

Jimmy

Jimmy, age 16, called a shelter program asking for a place to stay. He reported that his father had dropped him off to live with friends who could no longer care for him and left the state. Jimmy reported that his father was abusive and had expected him to steal for the family to get by. His father used drugs on a regular basis and shared the drugs with Jimmy who was using drugs regularly.

The program staff was able to locate father in another state and obtain permission by telephone for Jimmy to stay. Because of Jimmy's need for drug treatment, he was referred to the Homeless Youth Intervention Program. Through HYIP Jimmy was enrolled in and completed an intensive outpatient drug treatment program. He was also able to obtain a psychiatric evaluation.

Because he had no home to go to, Jimmy was transferred into the transitional living program where he can remain until he is 18 if necessary. Jimmy had difficulty adjusting to the structure of the program because he had never lived in an environment with a regular routine and expectations. He gradually adjusted to the program. He took and passed his GED and obtained employment. He is currently looking into graphic arts training courses.

Available Programs and Services for Homeless Youth

Information on services provided by agencies serving homeless youth is based on the survey responses of 11 agencies representing 22 programs. These programs are located in seven of Arizona's 15 counties (Maricopa, Pima, Cochise, Coconino, Mohave, Yavapai and Yuma) and eight cities. Private non-profit organizations account for 86 percent of the agencies providing services and 14 percent are public organizations (schools).

Funding

Agencies reported \$7,314,619 in funding for Fiscal Year 2000 to support 21 (1 program did not provide funding information) programs for homeless youth. Funding amounts ranged from \$105,851 to \$1,703,571 with a mean program cost of \$348,315. Federal funds represent the largest source of funding for programs serving homeless youth (49%) followed by state (23%), private (21%), City (4%) and County (3%).

Table 3. Funding for Homeless Youth Programs (N=21)	
Federal	\$3,602,076
State	\$1,679,129
Private	\$1,551,673
City	\$260,251
County	\$221,490
Total	\$7,314,619

**Figure 4. Funding for Homeless Youth Programs
FY 2000**

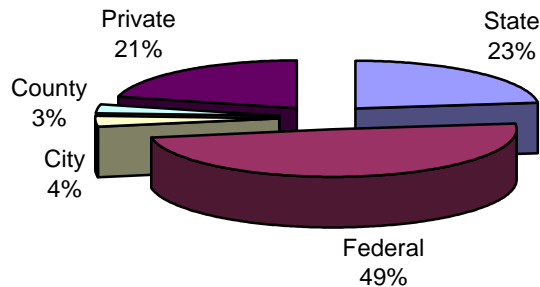


Table 4 illustrates the capacity of residential programs operated for homeless youth in Arizona based on the survey responses for FY 2000. Illustrated are the number of community beds allocated to non-system youth in comparison to the total number of beds in each facility. Most facilities have multiple funding sources and provide beds through contracts to agencies for youth in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems. Only 32.5 of 138 (25%) of the State's emergency shelter beds for youth under 18 are funded or allocated as community beds. The majority of Arizona's capacity in transitional living programs is allocated for non-system or homeless youth (85%) with 84 of 99 beds allocated to homeless youth 14-21 on their own.

Table 4. Capacity of Programs Offered by Agencies Serving Homeless Youth												
	Emergency Shelter			Transitional Living Group Residence			Transitional Living Supervised Apartments			Transitional Living Scattered Site		
	Community Beds	Total Beds	Ages Served	Community Beds	Total Beds	Ages Served	Community Beds	Total Beds	Ages Served	Community Beds	Total Beds	Ages Served
Cochise County												
Open Inn - Cochise	4	16	0-17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coconino County												
Alternative Center for Family-Based Services	4	8	10-17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northland Family Help Center	.5	14	0-17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maricopa County												
Florence Crittenton	3	3	10-18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Home Base Youth Services	-	-	-	25	25	18-21	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prehab of Arizona	0	6	10-18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tumbleweed	8	8	10-18	4	16	14-18	15+	19+	16-18	10	10	17-21
Mohave County												
Westcare Arizona	Varies	20	0-17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pima County												
Open Inn-Pima County	4	30	8-17	-	-	-	Varies	10	16.5-18	11	11	18-21
Our Town	4	8	13-18	-	-	-	4	28	16.5-21	15	20	18-21
Yavapai County												
Open Inn-Yavapai Turning Point	3	7	7-17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Open Inn-Yavapai Crossroads	2	6	7-17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yuma County												
Child and Family Resources of Yuma	Varies	12	0-18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	32.5+	138	0-18	29	41	14-21	19+	57+	16-21	36	41	17-21

Includes agencies participating in survey * includes space for infants and babies with teen parents.

Availability of Services

Table 5 presents an overview of the continuum of services offered by each of the programs within the seven counties. Most agencies offer an array of services for runaway and homeless youth either directly or through a collaborative relationship with a community agency. Some agencies are not able to offer outreach, due to limited program capacity. The emergence of drop-in centers illustrate that many youth can be helped in a non-residential setting, especially older youth.

Scattered-site apartments, which do not have to be incorporated into the program's licensed facilities, are a cost effective method of meeting a critical need to assist youth who can live independently with housing assistance.

Table 5. Services Provided by Agencies Serving Runaway and Homeless Youth

D = Direct Provision R= Referral	Outreach	Screening/Intake	Temporary Shelter	Meals	Case Management	Information and Referral	Follow-up to Referral	Individual Counseling	Family Counseling	Transportation	Health Care	Transitional Living Beyond Shelter	Help youth with other living arrangements	Aftercare Services	Test for Substance Abuse	Drug Abuse Program	Program for Alcoholics	Mental Health Services	Tx for Suicidal Behavior	Independent living skills	Recreational Program	Educational Program/GED	Employment Assistance	Advocacy	Coordination with Criminal Justice	Peer counseling	AIDS/HIV Education	AIDS/HIV Treatment	Gay/Lesbian Services	Migrant/immigrant svcs	Mentoring	Cash assistance	Clothing	Start up household items	Prevention			
Cochise County																																						
Open Inn - Cochise	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	R	D	D	R			R	R	D	D	R	D	D	D		D		R	D			D					
Coconino County																																						
Alternative Center for Family-Based Services	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	R	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	R	R	D	D	R	D	D	D	D	R	D	D	R	D			
Northland Family Help Center		D	D	D	D	D		D	D	D	R	R	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	R	R	D	R	R	R	R	R			R	D	R				
Maricopa County																																						
Florence Crittenton			D	D	D	D		D	D	D										D	D	D			D						D		D					
Home Base Youth Services	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	D	R	D	D	D	D	R	R	R	R	D		D	D	D	D		D	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	D			
Prehab of Arizona		D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D		R	R		D		D		D	R						D					D								
Tumbleweed	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	D	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	R	D	D	D		D	R	R	R		D	D	D	D			
Mohave County																																						
Colorado River Union High School District Homeless Student Program	D	D	R	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R	D	R		D	D	D		R	R	R	R	D	R	R	R				

Westcare Arizona	R	D	D	D	R	D	R	R	R	D	R	R	R	R	R	D		R	R	R	D	D	R	R	R	D	D	R		R	R	R	D	R	D
<div>D = Direct Provision</div> <div>R= Referral</div>	Outreach	Screening/Intake	Temporary Shelter	Meals	Case Management	Information and Referral	Follow-up to Referral	Individual Counseling	Family Counseling	Transportation	Health Care	Transitional Living Beyond Shelter	Help youth with other living arrangements	Aftercare Services	Test for Substance Abuse	Drug Abuse Program	Program for Alcoholics	Mental Health Services	Tx for Suicidal Behavior	Independent living plan	Recreational Program	Educational Program/GED	Employment Assistance	Advocacy	Coordination with Criminal Justice	Peer counseling	AIDS/Hiv Education	AIDS/HIV Treatment	Gay/Lesbian Services	Minority and Immigrant Services	Mentoring	Cash assistance	Clothing	Start up household items	Prevention
Pima County																																			
Open Inn - Pima	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	D	D	D	R	R		R	R	D		R	R	D	D	D	D		R	R			D	D	D
Pima County Homeless Teen Student Project		D	R	R	R	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	D			R	D							R	D	D	R	
Our Town Family Center	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	R	R	D	D	D	D	R	D	D	D	D	D	R	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Yavapai County																																			
Open Inn-Yavapai Turning Point		D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	R	D	D		R	R	R	R	R	D	R	D	D	D	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	D	R	D
Open Inn-Yavapai Crossroads	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	R	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	R	D	D	D	D	R	R	R	R	R	D	D	D	D
Yuma County																																			
Child and Family Resources of Yuma	D	D	D			D		D	D	D				D				D					D	D	D	D									

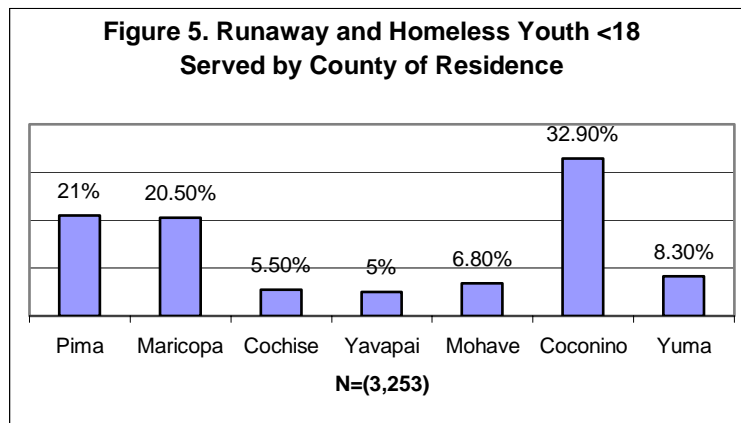
Only agencies completing surveys are represented.

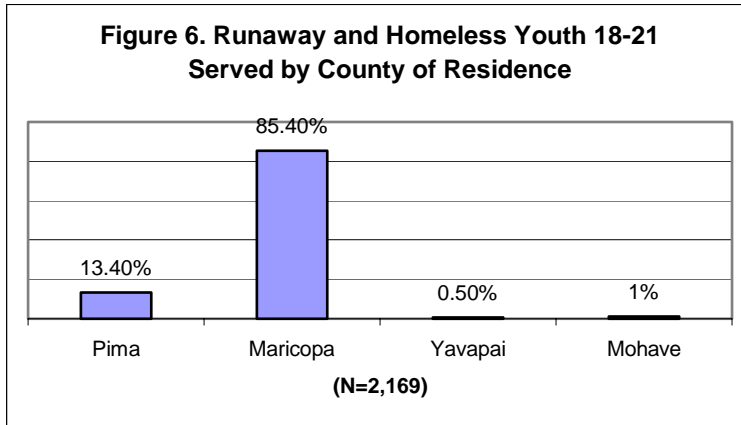
Estimates of the number of youth who are served by existing programs for homeless youth.

More than 5,000 homeless youth were served by 22 Arizona programs in seven counties between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2000. Table 6 presents the number of youth served by age group. Youth 18-21 represented the largest age group served (40%) followed by 16-17 (26%), 13-15 (24%) and 8-12 years (10%).

Table 6. Number of Youth Served By Existing Programs in Fiscal Year 2000 by Age				
8-12 Years	13-15 years	16-17 years	18-21 years	Total
547 (10%)	1,289 (24%)	1,417 (26%)	2,169 (40%)	5,422 (100%)

Figures 5 and 6 illustrate youth served by county of residence with the majority of youth served under 18 in Coconino, Maricopa and Pima counties and most all youth 18-21 served in Maricopa County. These percentages reflect the availability (or lack of availability) of programs in each area. Youth from states outside Arizona make up 5 percent of the population served under 18 and 8 percent for youth 18-21. Neighboring states such as California, Nevada, Texas and New Mexico accounted for the majority of the out-of-state youth.





Length of Stay in Shelter or Transitional Living Program

As presented in Figures 7 -10, most youth under 18 (72%) stay in shelter programs for less than a week. Few emergency shelter programs serve youth 18-21 and of those served (17), 100 percent stayed less than a week. Older youth (18-21) are more likely to use transitional living programs where the majority (55%) stays four months or longer. Similarly, the majority of youth under 18 (53%) stay in transitional living programs four months or longer.

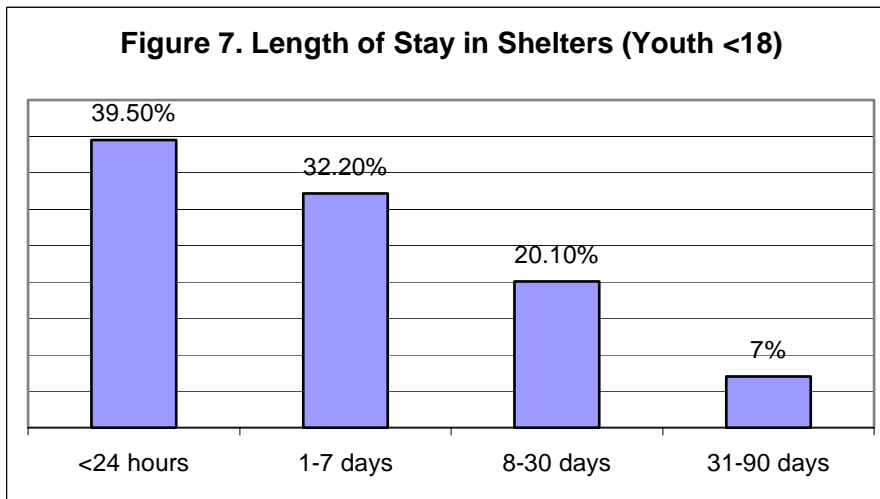


Figure 8. Length of Stay in Shelters (18-21)

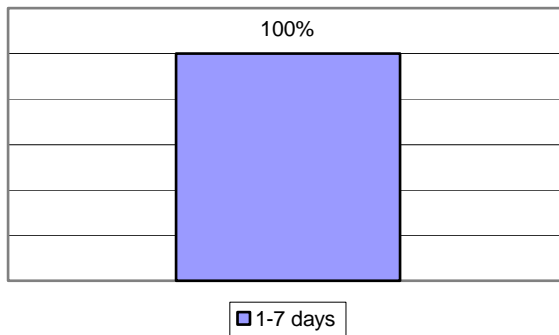


Figure 9.Length of Stay- Transitional Living Programs (<18)

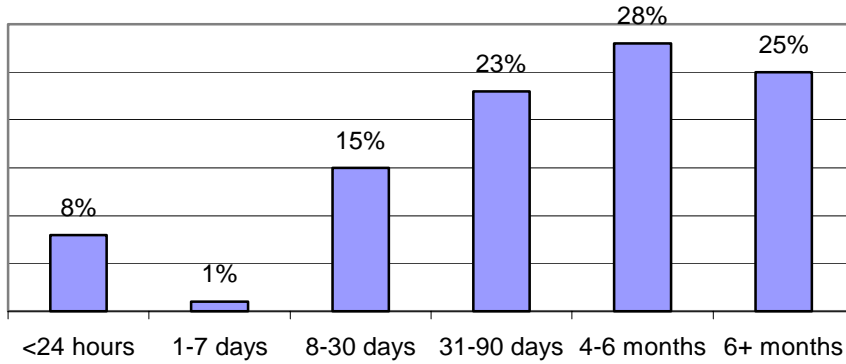
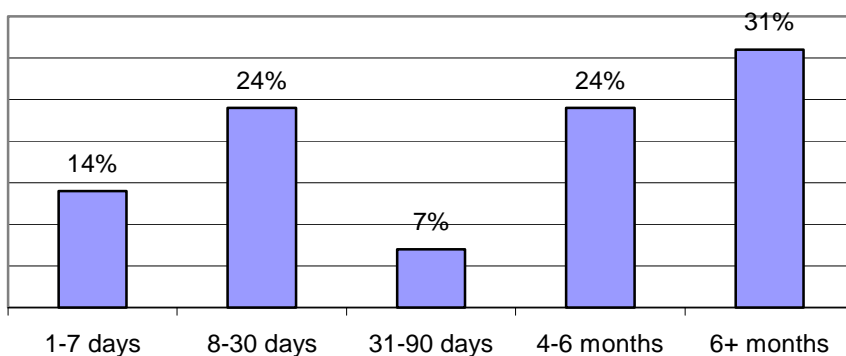


Figure 10. Length of Stay- Transitional Living Programs (18-21)



Darcy

In July the Street Outreach Program came into contact with "Darcy" a 15 year-old runaway from Tucson. Darcy was on the run when a friend she was staying with contacted the Crisis Line looking for help. Darcy has an extensive history of sexual victimization and exploitation beginning at the age of 8 and gang rape at the age of 11. Darcy had disclosed these traumas to her parents who were ill equipped to deal with these issues and instead chose to avoid discussing them with her. The distance between Darcy and her family increased greatly after these events and she found herself running away from home as a way of escaping her own pain as well as the conflicts with her parents. It was during these frequent runs that Darcy became involved with substance abuse. Starting first with alcohol and marijuana, Darcy now supports a daily heroin addiction. Darcy was in the middle of trying to 'kick' her heroin use and had succeeded in doing so for over three weeks without professional intervention.

Staff worked with Darcy to explore the possibilities of reunification with her family as well as addressing the need as identified by Darcy to maintain her sobriety. The family was contacted and services were offered but Darcy's father met these offers with resistance. In the meantime Darcy was able to get some of her health needs met through the OTFC/Pima County Health Dept. - Project CONTACT mobile clinic. During this time, while staff worked with Darcy to explore stabilized housing or reunification options as well as potential rehabilitation referrals for her addiction, she was arrested for her status as a runaway. Darcy was reunited with her family who placed her in a treatment facility in hopes of providing the services she needs to begin healing from her past.

Table 7 illustrates that the majority of youth under 18 (63%) were reunited with their parents upon discharge from the programs. The living situation at discharge was unknown for 31 percent of the older youth (18-21) followed by discharge to friends (14%), own residences (13%) or the home of a parent (8%) or relative (5%).

Table 7. Living Situation of Youth Served at Discharge				
Living Situation	Under 18	Under 18 (Percent)	18-21	18-21 (Percent)
Parent's Home	1,776	63%	46	8%
Relative's Home	255	9%	32	5%
Friend's Home	55	2%	81	14%
Other's Adult's Home	71	3%	4	<1%
Foster Home	95	3%	16	3%
Group Home	45	2%	18	3%
Transitional Living Program	54	2%	8	1%
Independent Living Program	23	<1%	6	1%
Job Corps	2	<1%	9	2%
Youth Shelter	11	<1%	3	<1%
Family Shelter	12	<1%	3	<1%
Own residence	65	2%	74	13%
On the run	58	2%	0	0
On the Street	23	<1%	34	6%
In squat (abandoned buildings)	12	<1%	49	9%
Drug treatment center	6	<1%	0	0
Residential Treatment Center	36	1%	3	<1%
Mental Hospital	3	<1%	3	<1%

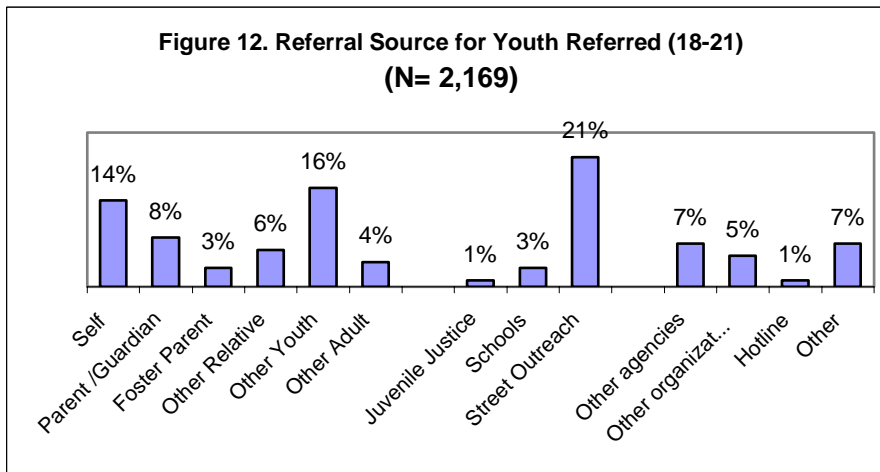
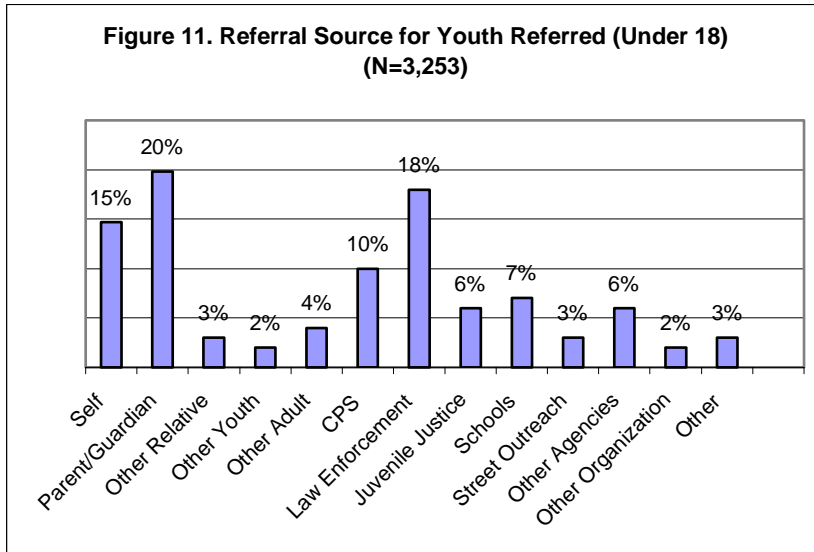
Correctional Institution	25	<1%	0	0
Educational Institution	3	<1%	2	<1%
Other shelter	86	3%	0	0
Other institution	5	<1%	0	0
Unknown	42	1%	175	31%
Military	1	<1%	0	0
Other	58	2%	1	<1%
Total	2,822	100%	567	100%

Demographics of Homeless Youth Served

Agencies providing services to the youth provided detailed demographic information on the youth served during the past fiscal year (July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000) and serves as the basis for the profile.

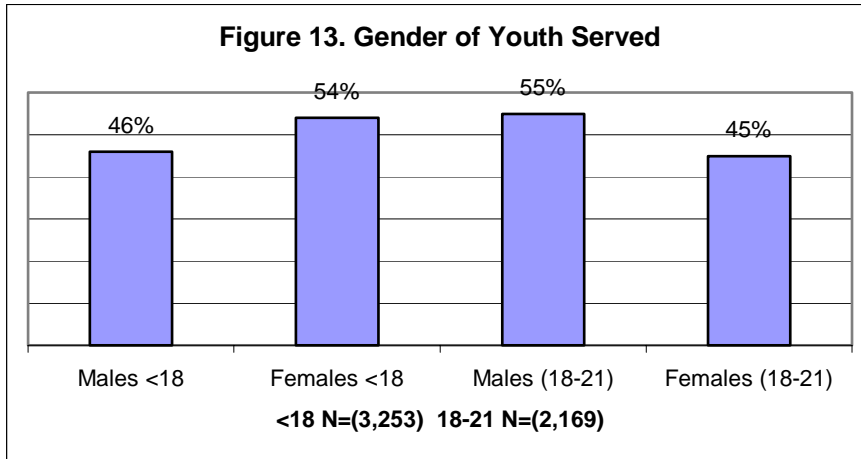
Referral Source of Homeless Youth Served in FY 2000

Parents and guardians (20%), law enforcement (18%) and youth, themselves (15%), served as the primary referral sources for youth under 18 who received services, as illustrated in Figure 11. In comparison, Figure 12 illustrates that street outreach (21%), other youth (16%) and self-referrals (14%) were the primary sources for youth 18-21. Providers estimate that 52 percent of the youth of all ages served in runaway and homeless youth programs have had previous runaway episodes and 281 or 5 percent have children of their own.



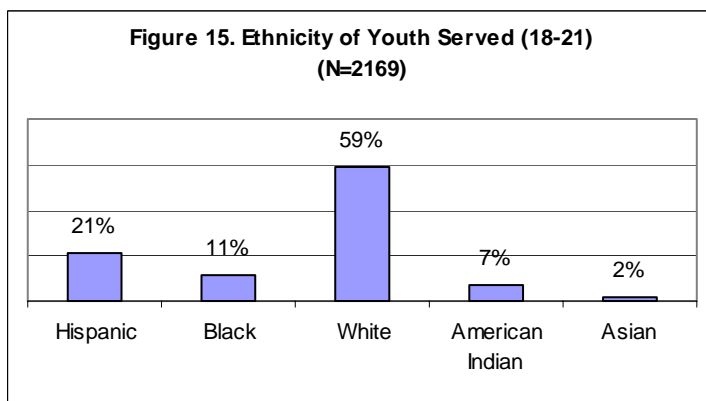
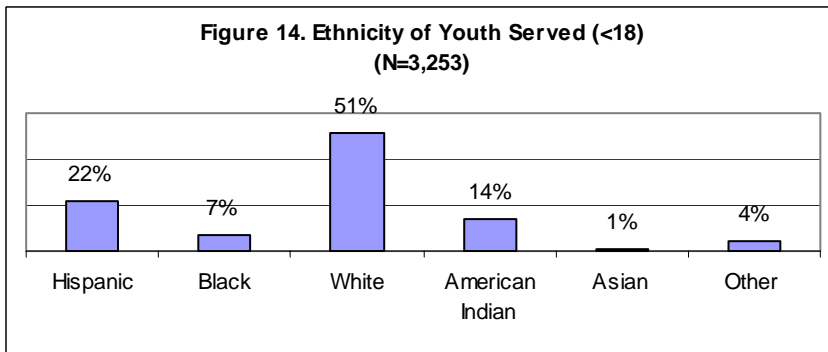
Gender

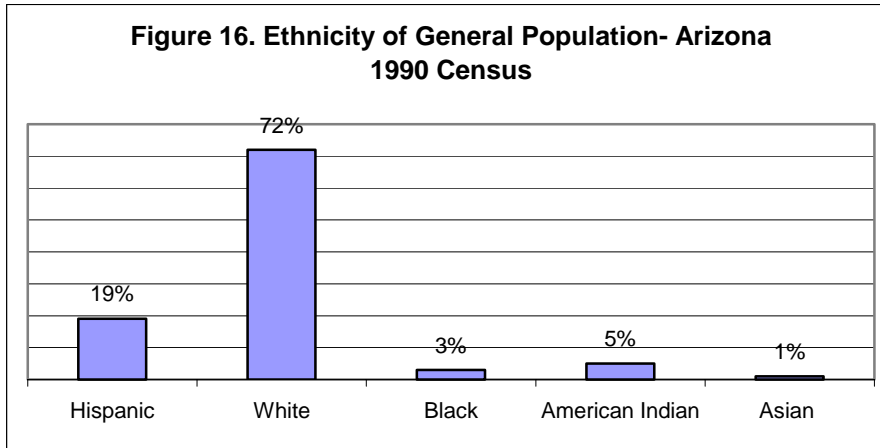
Figure 13 illustrates that more females under 18 (54%) were served in programs than males (46%) and more males (55%) 18-21 were served compared to females (45%) in this age group.



Ethnicity

Black and American Indian youth are overrepresented among youth receiving services from homeless youth agencies in comparison to the general population for both the under 18 and 18-21 age groups as illustrated by Figures 14 –16. For example, Black youth under 18 represent 11 percent of the population served by homeless youth programs but only 3 percent of the general population.





Last Living Situation of Youth Served

Table 8 presents the last living situations of the youth prior to receiving services from homeless youth programs. The majority of youth under 18 (58%) entered services following leaving their parent's home compared to 41 percent of youth 18-21 who entered services after living on the street or in abandoned buildings (in squat).

Table 8. Last Living Situation of Youth Served				
Living Situation	Under 18	Under 18 (Percent)	18-21	18-21 (Percent)
Parents' Home	1,752	58%	115	13%
Relatives' Home	233	7%	83	10%
Friend's Home	147	5%	112	13%
Other's Adult's Home	56	2%	24	3%
Foster Home	105	4%	0	0
Group Home	26	<1%	0	0
Transitional Living Program	25	<1%	28	3%
Independent Living Program	2	<1%	0	0
Job Corps	1	<1%	2	<1%
Youth Shelter	13	<1%	0	0
Family Shelter	11	<1%	3	<1%
Own residence	41	1%	61	7%
On the run	39	1%	0	0
On the Street	154	5%	139	16%
In squat (abandoned buildings)	43	1%	215	25%
Drug treatment center	23	<1%	1	<1%
Residential Treatment Center	79	3%	0	0
Mental Hospital	10	<1%	2	<1%
Correctional Institution	55	2%	7	<1%
Other Institution	13	<1%	0	0
Other shelter	103	3%	52	6%
Other	62	2%	3	<1%
Unknown	2	<1%	19	2%
Total	2,995	100%	866	100%

Primary Reason for Homelessness

Programs reported that fifty-two percent of youth served for all ages had previous runaway episodes. The primary reasons for homelessness among youth under 18 served, as illustrated in Table 9, were that they had runaway (64%) or had been abandoned (14%). Primary reasons for homelessness among served youth 18-21 were: runaways--31%; abandoned youth--10%; discharge from the child welfare system--7%; and, juvenile justice system--7%.

Table 9. Primary Reason for Homelessness for Youth Served				
Primary Reason for Homelessness	Under 18	Under 18 (Percent)	18-21	18-21 (Percent)
Runaway	1,686	64%	256	31%
Abandoned	374	14%	83	10%
Discharged from Child Welfare*	23	<1%	57	7%
Discharged from Juvenile Justice	43	2%	62	7%
Discharged from adult correctional system	5	<1%	32	4%
Discharged from mental health system	16	<1%	23	3%
Family homeless in shelter	127	5%	13	2%
Parent in domestic violence program	69	3%	12	1%
Parent in residential substance abuse treatment program	42	2%	30	4%
Other reason**	229	9%	269	32%
Total	2,614	100%	837	100%

*Discharged from Child Welfare primarily includes family crisis situations where short-term intervention by Child Protective Services was provided, but the case was not substantiated and subsequently was closed.

**Other reason includes, "family homeless on streets", "family conflict", "family neglect".

Length of Homelessness Prior to Entering Program

As illustrated in Figure 17, four of ten youth (40%) under 18 sought services within seven days after they became homeless compared to only 14 percent of youth 18-21.

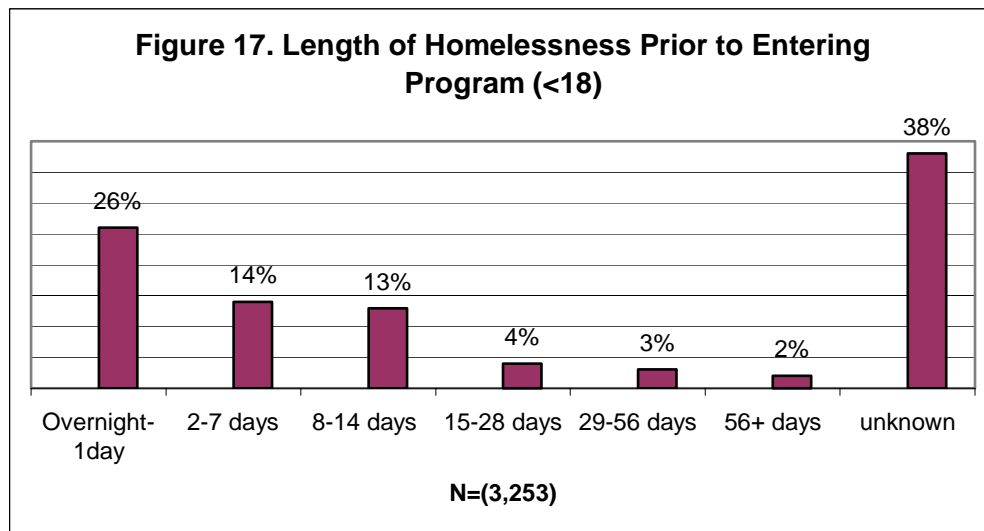
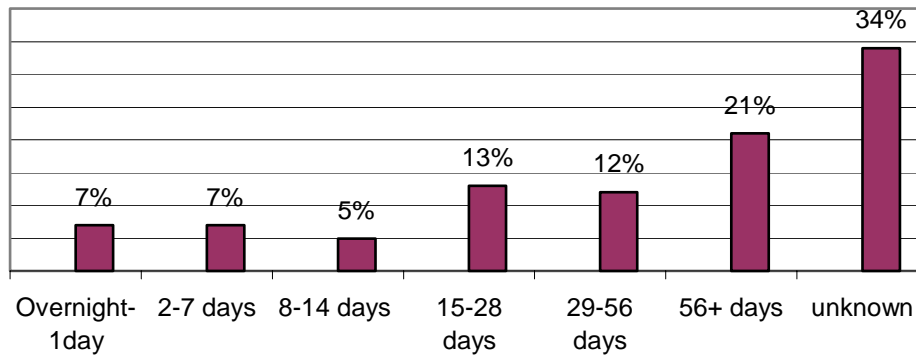


Figure 18. Length of Homelessness Prior to Entering Program (18-21)
N= (2,169)



School Status at Entry of Youth Served

As illustrated in Table 10, the majority (59%) of youth served (under 18) was attending school regularly when they entered homeless youth programs. Youth 18-21 had reached varying levels of educational attainment with 19 percent attending school regularly, 9 percent high school graduates, 6 percent GED and 18 percent had dropped out.

Table 10. School Status at Entry of Youth Served				
School Status	Under 18	Under 18 (Percent)	18-21	18-21 (Percent)
Attending School Regularly	1,946	59%	163	19%
High School Graduate	4	<1%	75	9%
GED	14	<1%	52	6%
Irregular attendance	428	13%	182	21%
Dropped Out	201	6%	154	18%
Suspended	87	3%	2	<1%
Expelled	48	1%	30	3%
School not in session	96	3%	1	<1%
Unknown	395	12%	204	24%
Other	52	2%	0	0
Total	3,271	100%	863	100%

Employment Status of Youth Served at Entry

As illustrated in Table 11, for many programs, the employment history information was not collected (unknown) for youth under 18 (64%) and the majority of youth 18-21 (53%) were unemployed when entering services.

Table 11. Employment Status at Entry of Youth Served				
Employment Status	Under 18	Under 18 (Percent)	18-21	18-21 (Percent)
Employed Full time	39	1%	28	4%
Employed part time	82	3%	33	4%
Seasonal or sporadic employment	24	<1%	19	2%
Looking for work	179	6%	50	6%
Unemployed	388	13%	416	53%
Never employed	416	13%	22	3%
Unknown	1,967	64%	214	27%
Total	3,095	100%	782	100%

Danny

"Danny" is a 17 year old former runaway and gang member. He lives with his two younger brothers and his mother in a modest house in Tucson's north-central area. Danny came into contact with the Street Outreach Program in the summer of 1999 after being referred by his cousin who worked for the program as a peer outreach Youth Worker.

Danny's family has never had much stability. His mother has had numerous relationships, most of them emotionally abusive, during Danny's life. Like his older brothers, Danny has been in trouble with the juvenile justice system. Danny's oldest brother is currently incarcerated for assault charges. In the last two years Danny has made an effort to try and keep himself away from the gangs and drug use that had led to his own trouble with the law.

Danny also has a congenital bone disorder that has left his body malformed. Though very physically able today thanks to dozens of surgeries over the course of his life, Danny still bears very visible scars and facial distortions. This coupled with his family's low income had left him feeling like an outcast, eager to turn to anyone or any group that would show him attention and affection. This opened the door for his former drug use and involvement with gang life.

Danny's continual running was fed by the conflict in the home with his mother, her boyfriends and his two brothers as well as his poor performance in school. The arguing and physical confrontations between Danny and his brothers were often so explosive resulting in more than one charge of domestic violence against Danny and his siblings.

Staff worked on a case plan that focused on Danny's goals of completing his high school diploma and reducing the conflict in the home. Danny has been working hard, enrolling in a charter school to complete his credits in order to graduate in the fall of 2001. Danny has been receiving counseling, mentoring, family counseling and supportive services to stabilize the home. To date Danny has followed through on the plan and he is now employed as a peer outreach Youth Worker with the Street Outreach Program.

The conflicts in the home have been reduced over the last several months, mostly due to the conflict resolution skills that Danny has honed through his work with outreach staff. Danny is committed to taking care of his needs and not allowing the adversity that he often experiences on the part of his family to dissuade him from his goals of graduating, continuing his education, and becoming fully independent.

Issues Presented by Youth Served

Table 12 lists the presenting issues for youth served. For youth under 18 school problems, parental abuse, family financial problems, parental alcoholism and drug abuse were most common. For youth 18-21 the most common issues were lack of financial support, drug abuse, alcoholism, absence of father and economic problems. Many youth have multiple problems that led to their homelessness as these issues are not mutually exclusive.

Table 12. Issues Presented by Youth Served				
Presenting Issues	Under 18	Under 18 (Percentage of Total Youth Served)	18-21	18-21 (Percentage of Total Youth Served)
Parent temporarily lost job	300	9%	21	1%
Family lost housing	266	8%	22	1%
Economic problems	497	15%	283	13%
Absence of caretaker	232	7%	152	7%
Sex abuse by parent	112	3%	71	3%
Other abuse by parent	489	15%	219	10%
Violence in family	99	3%	126	6%
Parent has disability	57	2%	63	3%
Parent has mental health problem	130	4%	115	5%
Parent is an alcoholic	437	13%	204	9%
Parent is drug abuser	416	13%	117	5%
Youth has school problems	688	21%	268	12%
Youth has disability	49	2%	40	2%
Youth has mental health problem	406	12%	253	12%
Youth is an alcoholic	218	7%	276	13%
Youth is a drug abuser	386	12%	415	19%
Youth has attempted suicide	129	4%	55	3%
Youth has had trouble with the justice system	373	11%	111	5%
Youth is a gay/lesbian	34	1%	57	3%
Youth has AIDS	1	<1%	4	<1%
Absence of mother	236	7%	113	5%
Absence of father	380	12%	289	13%
Youth has no means of support	374	11%	559	26%
Youth was in foster care	58	2%	108	5%
Other issue	0	0	6	<1%

Percentages will not add up to 100% due to multiple responses

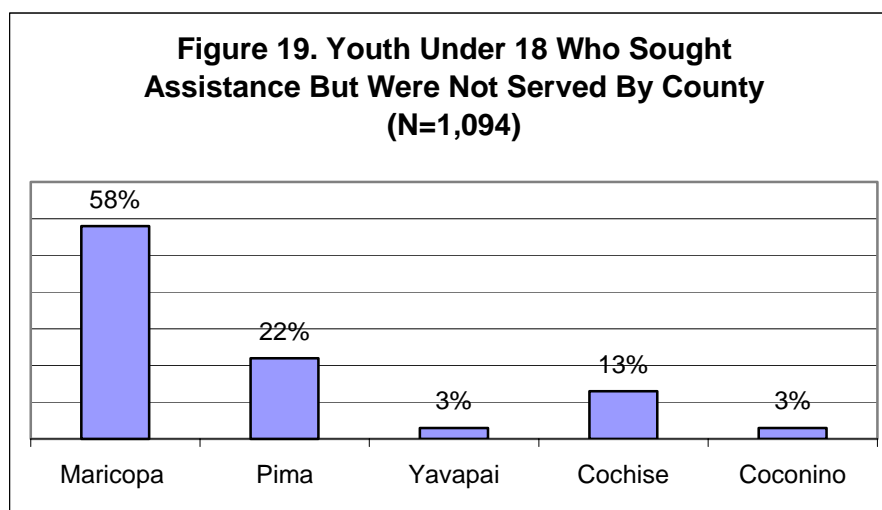
Estimates of the number of youth who sought assistance at shelter programs but could not be served and the reasons they could not be served.

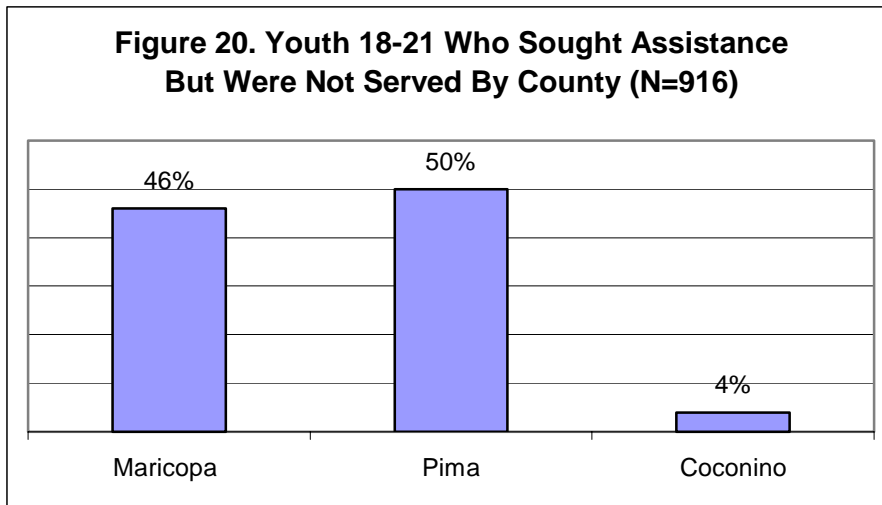
A lack of capacity (space) in programs was the reason cited most often for youth not being served by homeless youth programs accounting for 56 percent for youth under 18 who were not served and 36 percent for youth 18-21. Other youth could not be served due to problems such as serious substance abuse, violence and other issues that pose a risk to others residing in a group setting. Table 13 illustrates the reasons youth were not served by age group and reason.

Table 13. Youth Who Sought Assistance But Were Not Served				
Reasons Not Served	Under 18	Under 18 (Percent)	18-21	18-21 (Percent)
Lack of Capacity	609	56%	328	36%
Substance Abuse	126	12%	139	15%
Violent	122	11%	49	5%
Sexual Perpetrator	43	4%	10	1%
Serious mental illness	50	5%	50	5%
Other problem	144	13%	340	37%
Total	1,094	100%	916	100%

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

As illustrated in Figure 19 the majority of youth under 18 who could not be served were in Maricopa County (58%), followed by 22 percent in Pima County. However, the majority (50%) of youth 18-21 who could not be served were in Pima County followed by Maricopa (46%) and Coconino (4%). (Figure 20).





Youth Perspective

In order to include a youth perspective in the report, four focus groups were held with youth in conjunction with the site visits to programs serving runaway and homeless youth. A total of 22 youth between the ages of 13 and 21 were interviewed at four sites, representing the continuum of types of programs in both urban and rural areas. Sites included the Tumbleweed Drop-In Center, Shelter and Transitional Living Programs in Maricopa County, Our Town Transitional Living Program in Pima County, and Open-Inn Turning Point in Prescott. A set of nine questions provided the structure for discussion in the focus groups. Key findings and examples are summarized and presented within the framework of the questions.

1. What was the deciding factor that influenced you to enter this program?

Youth learned about programs serving runaway and homeless youth from other youth, teachers, counselors, caseworkers, parents and relatives. Many of the youth staying in the shelters were in counseling with their parents working toward reunification efforts. In some situations, relatives had intervened and helped the youth enter a crisis shelter program. Older youth frequently learned of services through word of mouth from other youth and through referrals.

Youth left home usually following major unsettling events in their homes such as being kicked out, their families moved away and left them behind, abusive situations or aging out of the CPS/foster care system. One youth reported that her mother had other children at home and couldn't care for her. Another youth (18) was staying in an adult shelter because his parents lived in HUD-Section 8 housing and regulations did not permit him to continue living there after his 18th birthday.

2. Where else could you have stayed if you had not chosen to come to this program?

Youths indicated their options were extremely limited before they came to the programs, indicating they "had no place else to go." One youth suggested that for many young people, there is often the option of returning home, but for a variety of reasons, they choose not to do so.

3. What situations in your home environment contributed to your running away or leaving home?

Several youth were living away from home for more than five years, with periods in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems. One youth explained that her mother had joined a cult, leaving her to care for herself at the age of 12. There was a consensus among the youth that young people usually leave home or run away due to parental neglect or abuse. In some cases, they become homeless because their family has become homeless.

4. What things have helped you most during your stay here?

- *"Helping me study and get my driver's license."*
- *"Finding employment in the community."*
- *"Program gave me a safe place to wait for the family situation to settle down in order to go home."*
- *"Services helped me improve my relationships with my parents and live in a place where I felt safe."*
- *"Help with getting ID, medical services, getting glasses, and getting legal assistance to pursue a trust fund."*
- *"Time in the shelter gave me time to think, talk to people and see other options."*

5. What do you see as your next steps?

Examples include:

- *"Reunification with parents."*
- *"Getting my GED."*
- *Getting out on their own and being successful.*

- *Some youth were moving into program-supervised apartments.*
- *Job Corps, which provides a dormitory living situation.*

6. Where do you plan to go when you leave this program?

- *"Move in with my sister."*
- *"Getting my own place and finding another job that would be better than my most recent job of waiting tables".*

7. Do you see any reasons why youth, like yourself, would hesitate coming to a program like this?

- *"Rules, bed checks, curfews."*
- *"Required to stay inside a lot of the time."*
- *"Losing contact with friends, as phone use and the ability to leave the facility were restricted."*
- *"Youth indicated that they think that pride gets in the way of youth using services."*
- *"Sometimes you forget to be human and become only a client."*

8. How can programs for homeless youth be improved?

- *"There should be more things (activities) to do."*
- *"When there are activities, the entire group must participate (which I don't like)."*
- *"Youth residents must have their own transportation to and from work, as staff cannot provide rides, yet in some programs youth are not allowed to have a car. In some programs youth can have cars if they have permission and insurance."*
- *"Expand shelter space so more young people can be served."*
- *"Shelter and transitional living programs should be physically separate from one another."*
- *"The restrictions placed on youth in living situations in mixed programs (shelter and transitional living) makes the living situation chaotic for long term youth with people constantly coming and going."*

- *“Help with completing resumes, need an address and phone for employment.”*
- *“Limited use of the phone in some group facilities is too restrictive, sometimes only 10 minutes per hour.”*
- *“Some programs prohibit youth from having contact with ex-residents, which in many cases is stressful as it is natural for the youth to want to stay in touch with their new friends once they leave the shelter.”*
- *One of the youth explained that the shelter rules required her to stay in for two weeks before looking for a job. In four months, she would be 18 and need “to get my life together and be on my own again.” Prior to living at the shelter, this youth had been staying with friends after having a falling out with a roommate in an apartment.*

9. Is there anything else that you wanted to tell me about your views on the needs of youth in crisis, especially those who have run away or are homeless?

- *Homeless youth looking for jobs underscored how difficult the process was without a phone number. When they used the shelter phone number, staff was not able to confirm whether they were residing in the program when a potential employer called due to confidentiality and security policies. Access to voice mail has helped improve this situation.*
- *“Difficulty in meeting all the criteria for programs in the sense of having to be at multiple places at the same time to take advantage of benefits, case manager appointments, job interviews, counseling, school, work, apartment hunting, etc.”*
- *“Programs need to have bilingual staff to accommodate monolingual Spanish speaking youth.”*

Barriers

Agency directors identified barriers that limit their ability to serve runaway and homeless youth in Arizona which include:

- Lack of consistent reliable funding sources.
- Programs are not set up for housing adolescents who have their own children.
- Lack of resources for permanent housing for youth.

- No central location to provide accessible services.
- Lack of crisis shelters for 18-21 year old youth like Home Base.
- Lack of alternative placements, other than shelter or transitional living.
- Lack of residential substance abuse and mental health treatment programs.
- Difficulty finding apartments for the youth.
- Parents refusing to care for youth present problems.
- Lack of transportation.
- Lack of shelter and transitional living beds.
- Family alcohol and drug abuse.
- Federal and state policies that limit the time youth can stay in shelter (in some cases 14 days).
- Overloaded juvenile justice and child welfare systems that do not address the long-term needs of homeless youth prior to discharge.

Michelle

“Michelle” was on the run when she called the crisis line and was at a loss as what to do. She had run from home a few days prior after a very heated argument with her parents. She was staying with a friend who prompted her to call for help.

Michelle's family had been experiencing intense grief and loss due to the death of Michelle's 3 year old sister earlier this spring. The sister had been dealing with a number of congenital health problems and the family's energy, particularly Michelle's mother, had been focused on the ill child. This meant that Michelle as the eldest child found herself acting as parent and caretaker for her younger siblings for the better part of the past two years. Feeling the desire to have more freedom, as well as having to cope with a dying sibling, Michelle's resentment towards her situation and inner hurt grew until she felt she had no option but to do something drastic and run. With the help of staff, Michelle was able to reestablish contact with her family. Utilizing the strengths of the family, in particular Michelle's relationship with her grandmother, outreach staff were able to engage Michelle to open dialog with the family.

After several sessions with Michelle and her family they were able, for the first time, to begin addressing the intense hurt over their losses, their frustrations over their individual and familial situation, and their concern and love for one another. Michelle returned home to her family and is now on a three-week family vacation traveling across the United States. Outreach staff will continue to provide counseling and support for Michelle and her family as they work to heal and improve their relationships when they return.

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

The preceding discussion of findings provides the foundation for conclusions and warrants recommendations based on the survey data and input from youth in focus groups.

- Programs serving runaway and homeless youth are only available in seven of Arizona's 15 counties.
- Existing programs serving homeless youth in seven Arizona counties served 3,253 youth under 18 in FY 2000 and turned away 1,094 youth because of the lack of capacity or the inability to provide for the special needs for that youth.
- Due to the crisis situations leading to youth homelessness most youth need immediate access to these services to make a significant difference. With intervention and services the majority of youth can be helped to return to their families (63%) or other stabilizing alternatives.
- The service delivery model used for the DES Homeless Intervention Program is promising as it is research-based and operates according to national standards to insure optimal success with homeless youth. The program model allows for youth to receive a continuum of services based on their needs within a community setting from agencies experienced in serving this population. The DES Homeless Youth Intervention Program appears to be a practical response to insure these children do not fall through the cracks of the service systems and consideration should be given to expansion to accept more than 175 referrals per year. The program is relatively new, established in January 2000, and more time is needed to assess the full impact. A program evaluation conducted by the Arizona Auditor General will provide more detailed information as to the effectiveness and impact of these services.
- Homeless youth 18-21 are in need of specialized services for their age group as it is difficult for youth programs to serve them in residential components and programs designed for adults are designed for older residents. In FY 2000, 2,169 youth 18-21 were served by Arizona programs and 916 had to be turned away, primarily due to lack of capacity. Few programs are available to provide services to this age group and are located primarily in Maricopa and Pima counties.
- Agencies identified barriers that limit their ability to serve homeless youth which include the lack of reliable funding, permanent housing for youth, substance abuse and mental health treatment, transportation and overloaded juvenile justice and child welfare systems that often discharge homeless youth without adequately addressing their long term needs.

- Estimates of homeless youth do not provide a complete picture of the extent of the problem.

Recommendations

- Additional funding support is needed for these programs to serve youth who are referred. Funding is needed to expand programs and services to insure statewide availability.
- Develop strategies to eliminate barriers identified by agency directors that limit their ability to serve runaway and homeless youth in Arizona which include lack of reliable funding, permanent housing for youth, substance abuse and mental health treatment, transportation and overloaded juvenile justice and child welfare systems that often discharge youth without adequately addressing their long-term needs thus ending up homeless.
- Additional work is needed to gather estimates of homeless youth and information needed to plan for the needs of this population. For example:
 - 5,748 runaway reports for youth under 18 were received by Arizona Law Enforcement Agencies in 1999, an indicator of youth who may be in need of services. When runaway reports of youth are compared to the population projections, several discrepancies are apparent which may be indications of underreporting. While 59 percent of the youth live in Maricopa County, this jurisdiction accounts for only 29 percent of the runaway reports. In comparison, Pima County accounts for 49 percent of the runaway reports for 17 percent of the child population. Yuma County is also overrepresented in runaway reports (6%) when compared to population (3%). Further study of this data, along with the policies used by law enforcement agencies to accept and compile statistics would provide valuable information on the estimates of runaway youth in need of services.

Summary

Agencies serving homeless youth are trying a variety of innovative prevention intervention and treatment approaches to help youth and their families overcome their problems. The programs are designed to provide services that are youth-friendly and accessible with the goal of getting the youth off the street and into a safe, supportive environment as soon as possible. Once youth run away, they are likely to suffer from poor nutrition, respiratory diseases, physical and sexual victimization and many other problems. Homeless youth also feel the negative effects caused by the shortage of affordable housing, substance abuse programs, mental health treatment, transportation as well as overloaded child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Access to these services can prevent homelessness, provide valuable treatment and enhance their success.

Although Arizona's homeless youth face many serious issues and problems, the agencies serving this population have demonstrated an ability to reach youth and make a positive impact on these vulnerable youth and, in most cases, reunite them with their families. Arizona's agencies serving homeless youth represent an impressive group of programs that have benefited from the commitment of knowledgeable and dedicated leaders and staff who have continued to provide leadership and advocacy in the shaping of state policy in this area.

Appendix A. FY 2000 Survey on Homeless Youth in Arizona

Introduction: The purpose of this survey is for the State Homeless Coordination Office to collect data on homeless youth and the services available to serve them as mandated by SB 1180 passed by the Arizona State Legislature in 1999. Information collected will be reported in the annual report on the status of homelessness in Arizona.

Definitions: For the purposes of this survey homeless youth include the following:

- **Runaway youth-** A person under the age of 18 years of age who is absent from their legal residence without the consent of his/her parent, legal guardian or custodian.
- **Throwaway Youth:** Youth under 18 left to fend for themselves because their parents or guardians are unwilling to care for them.
- **Street Youth:** Long-term runaway, homeless or abandoned youth under 21 who have developed coping skills to maintain themselves on the street.
- **Other youth who lack parental support and supervision and are left on their own.** In many instances, parents are unable to provide parenting due to absence, mental illness, substance abuse problems etc.
- **Youth who are adjudicated dependent or delinquent and in state custody should not be included in this survey.**

Instructions:

Part I: Complete one copy of Part I of the survey to reflect services provided by through the programs operated by your agency. As all data will be reported by county, if your agency has programs in more than one county, complete separate copies of Part I of the survey to reflect programs operating in each of the counties.

Part II: Complete a separate Part II Section for each program operated by your agency serving homeless youth. If your agency has multiple programs serving youth (such as transitional living, shelter and drop in center) complete a separate Part II section for each program. Data from more than one site for the same type of program may be combined if they are located within the same county. For example, if Open Inn operates 4 shelters in Tucson, they may opt to complete one Part II section reflecting combined data for the Shelter Program.

Please return the completed survey by August 15th to:

Jane Killion Irvine ACSW
Consultant
4901 E. Calle Del Norte
Phoenix Arizona 85018
Fax: 602-840-7413

Thank you for your assistance with this very important effort on behalf of Arizona's youth.

Part I. Agency Overview and Services Provided

Agency Name: _____ Program: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: Az Zipcode _____

Person Responding: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

1. Indicate which term most closely describes your agency structure for runaway and homeless youth

Private non-profit

Private for-profit

Public

Other

2. Funding Sources. Indicate the types and amounts of funding your agency received for FY 2000 (July 1, 1999 – June 30, 2000). (Be sure to identify federal funds as such, even if the funds are distributed by cities, counties or a state agency.)

State Amount: _____

Federal Amount: _____

City Amount: _____

County Amount: _____

Private Foundation Grants Amount: _____

Individual contributions Amount: _____

3. Indicate the number, type and capacity of your agency's facilities and programs serving runaway and homeless youth.

Program/Facility Type	Number of Facilities	Beds /Capacity
a. Emergency Shelter		
b. Transitional Living – Group Residence		
c. Transitional Living – Supervised Apartments		
d. Transitional Living- Scattered Site Apartments		
e. Street Outreach		
f. Drop In Center		

4. Indicate which of the following services your agency offers to youth (directly or through referral) in each of the two age groups. Place a check in the box indicating whether the services are provided directly or through referral. If the services are not provided directly or through referral, leave the item blank.

Service	Youth under 18		Youth 18-21	
	Provided Directly	Provided Through Referral	Provided Directly	Provided Through Referral
a. Outreach				
b. Screening/Intake				
c. Temporary Shelter				
d. Meals				
e. Case management				
f. Information and referral				
g. Follow-up to referral				
h. Individual counseling				
i. Family counseling				
j. Transportation				
k. Health care				
l. Transitional living beyond shelter				
m. Help youth with other living arrangements				
n. Aftercare services				
o. Test for substance abuse				
p. Drug abuse program				
q. Program for alcoholics				
r. Mental health services				
s. Treatment for suicidal behavior				
t. Help youth develop independent living plan				
u. Independent living skills training				
v. Recreational program				
w. Educational Program/GED				

Service	Youth under 18		Youth 18-21	
	Provided Directly	Provided Through Referral	Provided Directly	Provided Through Referral
x. Employment Assistance				
y. Advocacy for clients				
z. Coordinate with criminal justice system				
w. Peer counseling				
x. AIDS/HIV education				
y. AIDS/HIV treatment				
z. Special services for gay/lesbian youth				
aa. Special services for minority and immigrant youth (with language and cultural barriers)				
bb. Mentoring				
cc. Cash Assistance				
dd. Clothing				
ee. Start up household items				
ff. prevention				
gg. Other (specify)				

5. List barriers that limit your program's ability to serve the runaway and homeless youth population.

6. Are there unmet needs for the population of runaway and homeless youth? If so, what are the three most pressing unmet needs?

1.

2.

3.

Thank you for your assistance with this important survey.

Part II. Youth Served

Instructions: For each question, enter the yearly totals for Fiscal Year 2000 (July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000). If you do not have current data available or have not collected specific items, estimates are acceptable and recommended. For example, if you have a calendar year 1999 report for your shelter program and believe the statistics would be similar to the Fiscal Year, please use the calendar year figures. Many of the questions in this section have been designed to be compatible with the RHYMIS information system used by federally funded runaway and homeless youth programs to simplify reporting of data for the survey. If your agency does not collect data for a particular question try to provide an estimate, if possible.

Definitions: For the purposes of this survey homeless youth include the following:

- Runaway youth- A person under the age of 18 years of age who is absent from their legal residence without the consent of his/her parent, legal guardian or custodian.
- Throwaway Youth: Youth under 18 left to fend for themselves because their parents or guardians are unwilling to care for them.
- Street Youth: Long-term runaway, homeless or abandoned youth under 21 who have developed coping skills to maintain themselves on the street.
- Other youth who lack parental support and supervision and are left on their own. In many instances, parents are unable to provide parenting due to absence, mental illness, substance abuse problems etc.
- Youth who are adjudicated dependent or delinquent and in state custody should not be included in this survey.

Information is specifically requested on older homeless youth ages 18-21.

Agency Name: _____ Program: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: Az Zipcode _____

Person Responding: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

1. Demographics by Age	Youth 8-12	Youth 13-15	Youth 16-17	Youth 18-21	Total
a. Number of Youth Referred in FY 2000					
b. Number of Youth Served in FY 2000					

2. Youth Who Sought Assistance but Could Not be Served by Shelter Programs		
a. Number of Youth who sought assistance at shelter programs but were not served in FY 2000	Youth Under 18	Youth 18-21
Reasons youth could not be served		
b. Lack of Capacity		
c. Youth screened out due to substance abuse problem		
d. Youth screened out due to violent or dangerous behavior		
e. Youth screened out due to sexual perpetrator history		
f. Youth screened out due to serious mental illness		
g. Other reason (specify)		

3. Number of infants or children accompanying their youth parents or guardians_____.

4. Percentage of youth served with previous runaway episodes (estimate)_____.

5. Referral Source for Youth Referred in FY 2000	Number of youth under 18	Number of Youth 18-21
a. Self referral		
b. Parent/legal guardian		
c. Foster parent		
d. Other relative		
e. Other Youth		
f. Other Adult		
g. Child Welfare/CPS		
h. Safe Place		
i. Law enforcement/Police		
j. Juvenile Justice		
k. School Staff		
l. Street Outreach		
m. Religious organization		
n. Other agency program		
o. Other youth services agency		
p. Other organization such as Adult/Family Homeless Shelter		
q. National Runaway Switchboard		
r. Other hotline		
s. Do not know		
Other (specify)		

6. Last living situation of youth served in FY 2000 before coming to Program.	Number of youth under 18	Number of Youth 18-21
a. Parent's home		
b. Other Parent's home		
c. Relative's home		
d. Friend's home		
e. Other adult's home		
f. Foster home		
g. Group Home		
h. Transitional Living Program		
i. Independent Living Program		
j. Job Corps		
k. Basic Center (Youth Shelter)		
l. Homeless Family Center		
m. Living independently		
n. On the run		
o. On the street		
p. In squat (example- inside abandoned buildings)		
q. Educational Institute		
r. Drug Treatment Center		
s. Residential Treatment		
t. Mental Hospital		
u. Correctional Institute/Detention Center		
v. Other Institution		
w. Other Temporary Shelter		
x. Other		
z. Do not know		

7. Ethnicity of Youth Served in FY 2000	Number of youth under 18	Number of Youth 18-21
a. Hispanic		
b. Black, not Hispanic		
c. White, not Hispanic		
d. American Indian/Alaskan Native		
e. Asian/Pacific Islander		
l. Other (specify)		

8. Gender of Youth Served in FY 2000	Number of youth under 18	Number of Youth 18-21
a. Male		
b. Female		

9. Legal Residence for Youth Served in FY 2000	Number of youth under 18	Number of Youth 18-21
Arizona		
a. Maricopa		
b. Pima		
c. Coconino		
d. Apache		
e. Navajo		
f. Mohave		
g. Cochise		
h. Santa Cruz		
i. Graham		
j. Greenlee		
k. Pinal		
l. Yavapai		
m. Yuma		
n. La Paz		
o. Gila		

10. Youth whose legal residence includes States other than Arizona		
a. AL		
b. AK		
c. AR		
d. CA		
e. CO		
f. CT		
g. DE		
h. DC		
i. FL		
j. GA		
k. HI		
l. ID		
m. IL		
n. IN		
o. IA		
p. KS		
q. KS		
r. KY		
s. LA		
t. ME		
u. MD		
v. MA		
w. MN		
x. MO		
y. MT		
z. NE		
w. NV		
x. NH		
y. NJ		
z. NM		
aa. NY		
bb. NC		
cc. ND		

10. Youth whose legal residence includes States other than Arizona		
dd. OH		
ee. OK		
ff. OR		
gg. PA		
hh. RI		
ii. SC		
jj. SD		
kk. TN		
ll. TX		
mm. UT		
nn. VT		
oo. VA		
pp. WA		
qq. WV		
rr. WI		
ss. WY		

11. Length of Homelessness Prior to entering Program for Youth Served in FY 2000	Number of youth under 18	Number of Youth 18-21
a. overnight		
b. 1 day		
c. 2-4 days		
d. 5-7 days		
e. 8-14 days		
f. 15-21 days		
g. 22-28 days		
h. 29-56 days		
i. More than 56 days		
j. Do not know		
k. Not applicable		

12. Primary reason for homelessness for Youth Served in FY 2000	Number of youth under 18	Number of Youth 18-21
a. Runaway		
b. Throwaway		
c. Discharged from child welfare system		
d. Discharged from juvenile justice system		
e. Discharged from adult correctional system		
f. Discharged from mental health system		
g. Family Homeless- youth can't stay with family in Homeless Shelter program due to age/policy		
h. Parent in domestic violence program and youth can't stay with parent in residential program due to age/policy.		
i. Parent in residential substance abuse treatment program and youth can't stay with parent in program due to age/policy.		
j. other (specify		

13. School Status at Intake of Youth Served in FY 2000	Number of youth under 18	Number of Youth 18-21
a. Enrolled and attending school regularly		
b. Graduated high school		
c. Completed GED		
d. Attending School irregularly/extended truancy		
e. Dropped out		
f. Suspended		
g. Expelled		
h. School not in Session		
i. Do not know		
j. other		

14. Employment Status at Intake for Youth Served in FY 2000	Number of youth under 18	Number of Youth 18-21
a. Employed- full time (35 hours or more per week)		
b. Employed part time (less than 35 hours per week)		
c. Volunteer		
d. Seasonal/sporadic		
e. Not employed-looking for work		
f. Not employed		
g. Never employed		
h. Do not know		

15. Length of Stay in Shelter or Transitional Living for Youth Served in FY 2000 (Cases Closed in FY 2000 only)	Number of youth under 18	Number of Youth 18-21
a. Less than 24 hours		
b. 1-3 days		
c. 4-7 days		
d. 8-30 days		
e. 31-90 days		
f. 4-6 months		
g. more than 6 months		

16. Issues presented by Homeless Youth Served in FY 2000	Number of youth under 18	Number of Youth 18-21
a. Parent temporarily lost job		
b. Family temporarily lost housing		
c. Family with long-term economic problems		
d. Absence of caretaker		
e. Sexual abuse of youth by parent		
f. Other abuse of youth by parent		
g. Violence by other family members		
h. Parent has disability		
i. Parent has mental health problem		
j. Parent is an alcoholic		
k. Parent is a drug abuser		
l. Youth has education/school problems		
m. Youth has disability		
n. Youth has mental health problem		

16. Issues presented by Homeless Youth Served in FY 2000	Number of youth under 18	Number of Youth 18-21
o. Youth is an alcoholic		
p. Youth is a drug abuser		
q. Youth has attempted suicide		
r. Youth is in trouble with justice system		
s. Youth is gay/lesbian		
t. Youth has AIDS or is HIV positive		
u. Absence of Mother		
v. Absence of Father		
w. Youth has no means of support		
x. Youth was in foster care		
z. Other (specify)		

17. Living Situation at Exit of Youth Served in FY 2000	Number of youth under 18	Number of Youth 18-21
a. Parent or Guardian's home		
b. Other parent's home		
c. Relative's home		
d. Friend's home		
e. Other Adult's Home		
f. Foster home		
g. Group home		
h. Transitional Living Program		
i. Independent Living Program		
j. Job Corp		
k. Basic Center (Youth Shelter)		
l. Homeless Family Center		
m. Living independently		
n. On the run		
o. On the street		
p. In squat (example: staying in abandoned buildings)		
q. Educational Institute		
r. Drug Treatment Center		
s. Residential Treatment Center		
t. Mental Hospital		
u. Correctional Institute/Detention Center		
v. Other Institution		
w. Other Temporary shelter		
x. Military		
y. Other		
z. Do not know		

18. List barriers that limit your program's ability to serve the runaway and homeless youth population.

19. Are there unmet needs for the population of runaway and homeless youth? If so, what are the three most pressing unmet needs

1.

2.

3.

Thank you for your assistance with this survey.